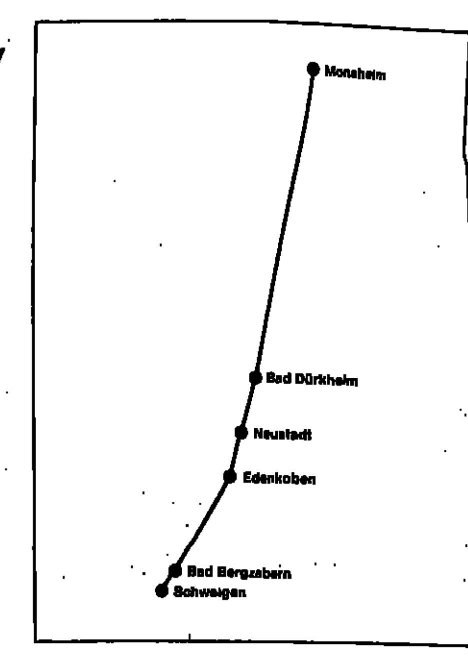
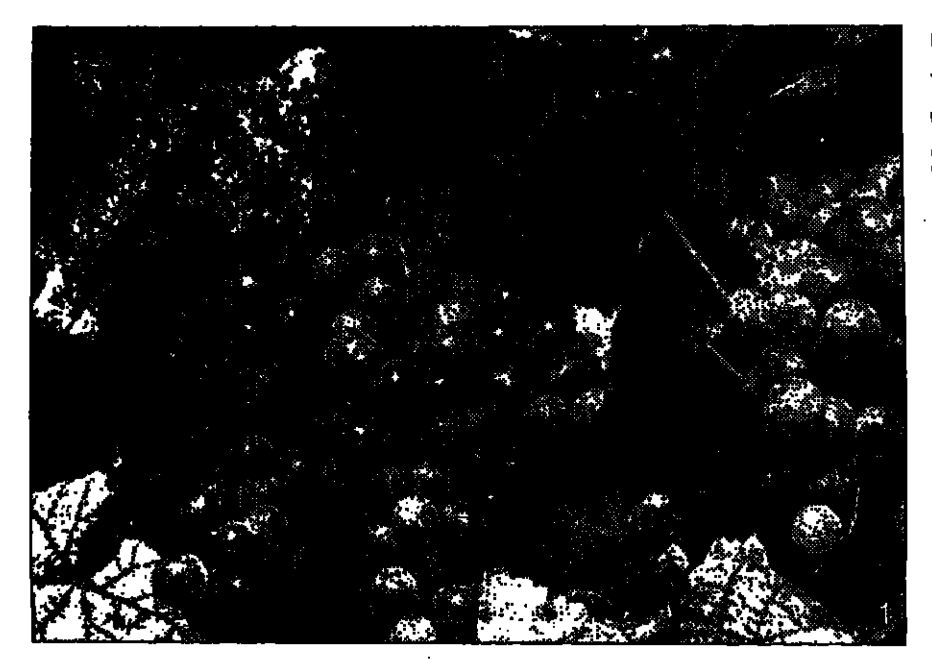
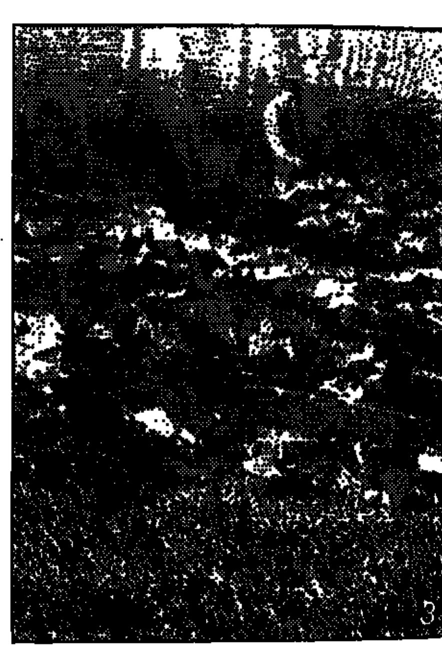
Routes to tour in Germany



The German Wine Route





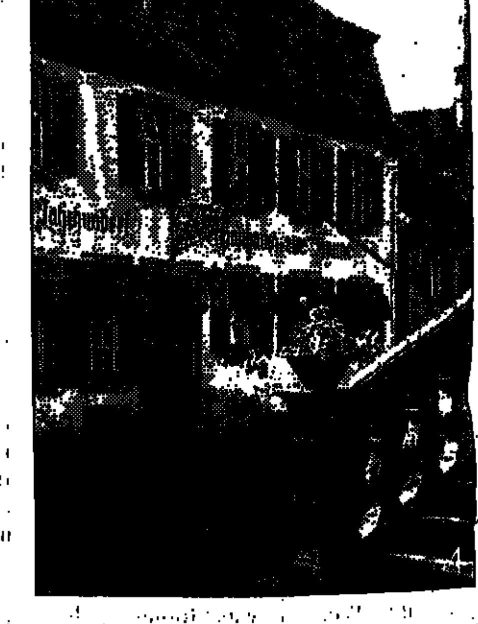
German roads will get you there – to the Palatinate woods, for instance, where 2,000 years ago Roman legionaries were already growing wine. Each vine yields up to three litres of various kinds of wine, such as Riesling, Sylvaner, Müller-Thurgau, Scheurebe or Gewürztraminer. Grapes are gathered in the autumn but the season never ends. Palatinate people are always ready to throw a party, and wine always holds pride of place, generating *Gemütlichkeit* and good cheer. As at the annual Bad Dürkheim Wurstmarkt, or sausage market, the Deidesheim goat auction and the election of the German Wine Queen in Neustadt. Stay the night in wine-growing villages, taste the wines and become a connoisseur.

Visit Germany and let the Wine Route be your guide.





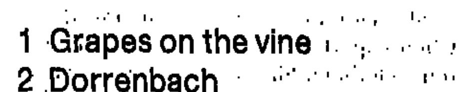








1 Grapes on the vine
2 Dorrenbach
3 St Martin
4 Deidesheim
5 Wachenheim



The German Tribune

Hamburg, 14 February 1988
Twenty-seventh year - No. 1310 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

'Singularisation' debate at Munich defence congress

Süddeutsche Zeitung

As an unofficial gathering in theory, but a highly official one in practice, the annual Munich defence congress is an accurate pointer to the state of the Atlantic alliance.

It was sure to be one this year, if only because of the roll-call, which included one Chancellor (Germany's Helmut Kohl) and seven Defence Ministers, including those of the United States and France.

They all lost no time in getting down to brass tacks. A spectre is stalking Europe, one that goes by the singularly unattractive name "singularisation."

With the double zero solution in respect of medium-range missiles some Germans, as so often in their history, feel left in the lurch and sold down the river.

Their world view is overshadowed by an agreement that provides for the scrapping of all nuclear missiles in the 500-5,500km range.

What is more, Soviet SS-20 missiles will no longer be aimed at London and Paris, just as US Pershing 2s will no longer be aimed at Kiev.

The result is an odd coalition ranging from Christian Democrat Alfred Dregger to Social Democrat Egon Bahr. Its slogan is: "The shorter the range, the deader the Germans."

This is a reference to the nuclear weapons that will then be left in Europe, especially the short-range missiles and field artillery with ranges of between 20 and 500km.

These are said to pose a "singular" threat, threatening only the Germans (East and West).

The imperative inference Social Democrats draw is the need for a third zero solution and, in the longer term, for the elimination of all nuclear weapons "on the territory of non-nuclear states," as SPD leader Hans-Jochen Vogel puts it.

CDU/CSU parliamentary party leader Alfred Dregger, who himself once seemed keen on the "third zero," feels that at the very least missiles must be reduced to a minimum that will prevent a massed concentration of conventional forces.

Consideration must also be given to whether nuclear artillery might not be dispensed with entirely.

Talk of "singularisation" has so far merely led to Bonn isolating itself, as it so tangibly appears to have done at the Munich congress.

The Americans were not alone in calling this a myth that was bound to have serious political consequences. So did the British, the French and even the Dutch.

Is it a myth or are the Germans right in feeling themselves "singularly" threatened?

Part of the myth can readily be exploded. In domestic debate mention is invariably made of 1,365 East Bloc short-range missiles to dramatise the "singular" threat.

This figure refers to an area extending from the Elbe to the Urals. It would be more realistic to refer solely to East Bloc territory from which targets in Germany west of the Elbe can be reached.

There are only about 380 Scuds and Frogs stationed in Poland, the GDR and Czechoslovakia. This may be dismissed as hair-splitting, but it is nonetheless a clearer pointer to reality.

Another reality is the new Soviet missile, the SS-24, a variable-range system with 10 warheads capable of reaching targets ranging from Brussels to Boston.

There are also the Backfire and Fencer bombers, capable of reaching targets throughout Western Europe.

Besides, despite the double zero there will still be thousands of atomic bombs in Europe that can be dropped to devastating effect on both sides.

Britain, as well as Germany, remains a favourite target, with both Britain's own nuclear weapons and 160 USAF F-111 nuclear bombers and a base for American strategic submarines.

Hundreds of aircraft with nuclear weapons in their bomb bays are based in Greece, Turkey, Holland and Italy. Targets in France also figure highly on the Soviet hit list.

Talk may overshoot reality, but in real politics it has actually succeeded in "singularising" the Federal Republic in the sense of isolating it.

In the final analysis the logic of singularisation leads to denuclearisation, on which the SPD is at least consistent.

Anyone who thinks further along these lines, as many Nato allies already

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE



German Defence Minister Manfred Wörner (right) welcomes US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci to Bonn (Photo: Sven Simon)



Federal Chancellor Kohl (right) and King Hussein of Jordan on eve of European Foreign Ministers' meeting in Bonn (Photo: Sven Simon)



King Hussein briefs Bonn on Middle East

King Hussein of Jordan briefed the assembled European Community Foreign Ministers in Bonn on the Middle East situation. He called on the Community to endorse the idea of holding an international peace conference.

The Jordanian monarch was the first foreign head of state to address the 12 Foreign Ministers, whose gatherings are held under the heading of European Political Cooperation.

He arrived in Bonn on 6 February and held initial talks with Foreign Minister Genscher, current chairman of the Council of Ministers.

After addressing the Council his other talks in Bonn were brief. From Bonn he flew to Stuttgart on 9 February, leaving the Federal Republic the next day.

Like President Mubarak of Egypt, he set out to canvass support in European capitals for last year's Arab League summit resolution to call for an international peace conference, as the European Community did a year ago.

In view of the present unrest in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the Arab and European countries evidently see an occasion for demonstrating unanimity in calling on the Israeli government to show itself ready to negotiate.

Before flying to Germany King Hussein called in a radio address for an international conference on peace in the Middle East to be convened.

He criticised the United States for having paid too much attention to "extremist elements" in Israel and prevented the conference as a result.

European Foreign Ministers ought, he said, to bring influence to bear on the

Continued on page 9

■ EUROPE

Tangled ties trouble the alliance

The long and fruitless negotiations held by European Community Foreign and Agriculture Ministers have led to two wrong conclusions being reached that repetition makes none the righter.

The first is that the expense of the Common Agricultural Policy and the reorganisation of European Community finances it necessitates are blocking progress toward the single internal market and European Political Union.

The second is that Margaret Thatcher and Helmut Kohl can be envisaged neither as political friends nor as political bedfellows, their brief London summit seemingly having reaffirmed this point.

What is interesting about these observations is that while they are accurate they fail to shed light on the political reasons that have reduced the process of European integration to a snail's pace.

The characteristic of this snail's pace is that feelers are first extended and a little headway made, only to be followed by a swift retreat by each snail to its shell.

Only someone given to thinking in abstract terms, bureaucratically and remote from national realities can, it is argued, possibly believe the spell can be broken by greatness of character overcoming the internal agriculture, as it were, or by drawing ingenious distinctions on one issue or the other.

That would be tantamount to an attempt to deal with the present heedless of history and the past.

Karl Kaiser in his book *Die stille Allianz* (The Quiet Alliance) describes two triangles, one Atlantic, the other European, formed by Britain, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States.

He argues that strong and, as it were, imperative links exist between Washington and Whitehall, Washington and Bonn and Bonn and Paris, while ties between Paris and London and Paris and Washington are far less marked.

Professor Kaiser arrives at these conclusions in respect of security policy, but they are merely an aspect, or a reflex, of basic political interests governing politics as a whole.

Great Britain as an island-state may, with some exaggeration, be said to have a prime interest, oriented toward world affairs, in close ties with the United States.

The importance to Britain of the Continent has naturally increased with and since the war, but Western Europe plays an alliance role that must be kept under critical scrutiny to keep the influence of Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe at a distance.

Not for nothing did Helmut Kohl, after his brief meeting with Mrs Thatcher in London, feel obliged to refute suspicions that he was "flirting" with the East.

That is precisely what worries the British — and not merely one of Mrs Thatcher's strictures.

The British have the same instinctive misgivings as the French about political integration of Europe and the sharing of sovereignty with other Continental states. But France is in an entirely different position. It needs its Continental neighbour to the east, the Federal Republic of Germany, not merely as an economic and financial partner; it also feels obliged to maintain a special relationship with Bonn to keep an eye on what it gets up to and prevent it from going it alone.

Ties of this kind are often referred to as exclusive, which indeed they basically are.

Afte the war Britain was very keen on strengthening France, while France from Robert Schuman to the present has pursued the sole objective of including in European institutions the part of Germany of which it had been able to gain control.

The Federal Republic has gone along *with this idea, in part fancifully, in part* without prejudice, while at the same time feeling "imperatively" dependent on America.

The importance of the geostrategic role Bonn plays politically and economically is out of all proportion to the power, influence and ability of its governments to reach decisions.

Eager to oblige, Bonn is bound in so many ways. Its ties with Nato and the growing substructure of its security relationship with France as evidenced by symbolic gestures of intent are felt in Whitehall to run counter to and be a possible threat to British interests.

This point, a view widely held in Britain, was made by Mrs Thatcher at her summit meetings with both President Mitterrand and Premier Chirac and Chancellor Kohl (although she will have been less forthright in what she said to the Chancellor in this connection).

Viewed from this overriding vantage point, it is hard to imagine Britain being seriously interested in the European process succeeding in achieving its gradually emerging objective of political union.

Nearly 30 years ago Harold Macmillan aimed at closer ties with the Continent with a view to stemming the tide of integration.

Britain's commitment is to the Atlantic pact, to which all belong and which exercises overall control, and not to

DIE WELT

Continental integration that might come to be based on an "un-British" centre of gravity.

This is a classic situation — and no reason for dismay on the part of intelligent German foreign policymakers.

The establishment of closer three-cornered relations with Britain would be a realistic objective, providing Bonn with the Atlantic leeway it needs to play a more sovereign role than it has done in changes in world affairs.

Relationships of this kind must be carefully nursed, yet it is self-evident that the Kohl government, unlike its predecessors in Bonn, has given striking preference, symbolically underscored, to ties with France.

This can be explained — and approved — in terms of immediate geographical proximity, of the importance attached to the Continent and of treaty ties since the 1950s.

All that needs rectifying is the one-sided emphasis, viewed differently from Britain and Germany.

Intentionally or not, it conveys the impression of keeping others at a distance and has repercussions when serious common problems, such as beset the European Community, come up for discussion.

Herbert Kremp

(Die Welt, Bonn, 4 February 1988)

Ostpolitik back in business under 'new management'

Bonn's new Ostpolitik is steadily gaining momentum, an unusual number of meetings having been held already this year with senior and leading officials of communist Eastern Europe.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher first visited Warsaw, then Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze visited Bonn.

Helmut Kohl is arguably the first Bonn Chancellor ever to have paid Czechoslovakia a full-scale visit, and many others lie ahead — even though dates may not yet have been finalised.

Given bygone years in which, after the CDU/CSU returned to power in 1982, doubts justifiably arose as to the direction in which the new government's Ostpolitik was heading (and the tender shoot of detente seemed likely to freeze in the chilly climate of missile deployment), the present trend can without exaggeration be classified as a markedly fresh start.

The visits to Bonn by GDR leader Erich Honecker and Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov, dramatically called off in 1984, have long taken place.

The risk of a second ice age, as a Prague newspaper put it in connection with Chancellor Kohl's visit, is hopefully a closed chapter as far as Europe is concerned.

With surprisingly few changes in accentuation the Christian Democrats in Bonn are continuing the policy toward Eastern Europe devised and inaugurated by the SPD-FDP coalition in the early 1970s.

That is particularly important for East-West ties in Europe inasmuch as it wasn't necessarily to be expected after the CDU/CSU opposition to treaties with the East Bloc.

A change of heart based on a change of mind is surely better than stubbornly clinging to a point of view, while trends in world affairs have also given German Ostpolitik a powerful boost.

Declarations of intent in Warsaw and Prague with a view to a good neighbours policy at times sounded a euphoric note, so much so as to prompt a belief that we are now experiencing the real breakthrough, ties in the 1970s having been mere preliminaries.

Let us hope this is the case. It would certainly be desirable, but it cannot yet be regarded as political reality.

In Prague, as in Warsaw, more was envisaged during the Chancellor's visit than was actually accomplished.

And Bonn ought to have less trouble in coming to terms with Czechoslovakia than with Poland, given that the dead-weight of the past weighs more heavily where Bonn and Warsaw are concerned.

The agreement on inland shipping signed in Prague was surely more of a success in terms of compromise on the status of Berlin than a practical milestone.

Yet its importance must not be underrated. It testifies to goodwill in respect of a genuine dialogue even on tricky issues of political principle.

In its wake agreement on joint measures in environmental protection, travel and cultural exchange ought to be no more than a detail, costing cash at the worst.

If the fine words spoken by Bonn and its Eastern European neighbours prove to be more than an empty shell, what lies ahead could amount to a political spring in European East-West ties.

The overall climate in Eastern Europe would not seem to prejudice this trend.

With few exceptions there is growing realisation and readiness in communist countries to seriously embark on reform policies, which is sure to have beneficial side-effects for intergovernmental relations.

There is no alternative to reform that makes sense if the widening technological gap between Eastern Europe and the advanced industrialised West is to be closed and the progressive decline and inefficiency of East Bloc economies are to be counteracted.

There are many signs of a growing realisation even at the highest levels of Party and state that doubt may be cast on ideological dogmas of communist social policy.

That may not be a copper-bottomed guarantee, but it is a reassuring basis for the gradual elimination of outdated enemy and conflict clichés and thus *for* closer ties between Eastern and Western Europe.

That again might lay the groundwork for a new all-European identity.

Harry Schleicher

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 January 1988)

Continued from page 1

have done, is bound to arrive at a point where the end of the North Atlantic pact poses a serious threat.

No-one said so officially at Munich, yet there was no mistaking the question *how* the Americans and the British were to defend the Germans "up front" if they were to have to dispense with nuclear weapons aimed at nuclear superpower Russia.

No-one will deny that the West Germans are singularly placed by virtue of geography, but the purpose of Nato and its collective "forward defence" is to ease this situation by means of deterrence rather than by conventional warfare in densely-populated terrain.

Conversely, were it not for Nato the Federal Republic would be subjected to the very nightmare of Germany's central geopolitical position, which has been traumatic for German Chancellors *from* Bismarck to Brandt.

Besides, Nato did not introduce nuclear weapons to bring pressure to bear on the Germans.

"The basic problem of security in Europe," as Chancellor Kohl rightly remarked, is the East Bloc's superiority in conventional forces.

If Nato succeeds in taking Mr Gorbachov at his word and persuading him to agree to a reasonable balance of power, nuclear weapons will automatically forfeit their murderous function.

Josef Joffe

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 8 February 1988)

The German Tribune
Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 3-4 Hartwicusstrasse
D-2000 Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 85 1, Telex 02-14733.
Editor-in-chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Simon Burnett (on extended leave). — Distribution manager: Georgine Picone.
Advertising rates list No. 15
Annual subscription DM 45
Printed by CW Niemeyer-Druck, Hameln.
Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc., 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.
Articles in THE GERMAN TRIBUNE are translated from the original text and published by agreement with leading newspapers in the Federal Republic of Germany.
In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address.

■ ATLANTIC PACT

Nato summit an opportunity for East-West progress



Nato is getting ready for a summit meeting of heads of government of its member-states to be held in Brussels in early-March.

It comes at a crucial moment in time for the alliance and for the future of East-West relations.

The summit may help clear up the political and military questions which have to be answered if the alliance wishes to retain its previous function and at the same time readjust to strategic, economic and demographic changes.

Nato needs more than just a publicity-orientated reassurance of its unity. It must also become aware of its strengths and weaknesses.

The allies should do more than declare their confidence in President Reagan's line of negotiation with the Soviet Union or their approval of his dream of ending deterrence via SDI.

The summit would have little meaning if it only managed to produce a warmed-up version of the Harmel Report with an eye to staging a spectacle for the media.

President Reagan is expected to turn up at the meeting with an entourage of roughly 900 specialist officials from the State Department, the Pentagon, the National Security Council, the three US intelligence agencies, security officials and journalists.

A meaningful statement can only be made by this meeting if Nato leaders prove that the real strength of the alliance lies in its internal freedom.

This includes the open discussion of controversial issues and the difficult search for a new common denominator.

Nato will reiterate its approval of the treaty on the elimination of medium-range weapons drawn up between the two superpowers.

It has no choice, since any admission of its misgivings about how "the thus created gap in the wall of our defence can be filled" (Nato Supreme Commander General Galvin) would give the opponents to the ratification of the INF treaty in the US Senate the lift they need.

Furthermore, Nato will wish Reagan a successful conclusion to American-Soviet Start negotiations on a fifty-per-cent reduction of the long-range strategic weapons on both sides by the end of spring.

A summit meeting is then planned between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachov in Moscow.

However, no Nato expert currently believes that the (in comparison with the INF treaty) more difficult obstacles of verifying "lower thresholds" and clarifying the relationship between ground, sea and air weapons systems will be negotiated on time.

This sceptical appraisal does not even include the crucial question, a binding interpretation of the ABM treaty on the mutual limitation of missile defence systems — above all, on research, development and deployment of space-based systems.

In the final analysis, the European alliance partners are mere spectators, as in all arms limitation negotiations relating exclusively to the security of the USA and of the Soviet Union, even though Europe's security depends on the outcome of these talks.

The acid test for the INF treaty will come once the treaty is ratified, always assuming it is, and the scrapping of missiles and launching ramps in the presence of inspectors begins in earnest.

It will then become clear whether the treaty, the terms of which are unparalleled, also looks that good in reality.

The fact that the INF treaty only eliminates three per cent of the superpowers' nuclear arsenals will definitely disillusion the over-optimistic.

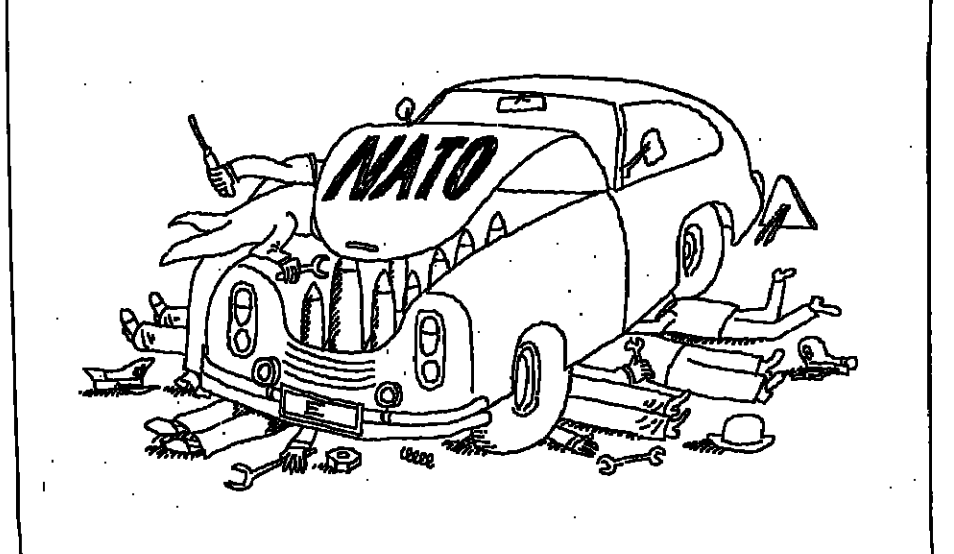
This disillusionment can have a healthy effect, particularly if the alliance plucks up enough courage to state that the existing strategy of flexible response requires the modernisation of weapon systems agreed by Nato at Montebello in 1983 if asymmetries between East and West are to be eliminated.

This agreement relates to missiles with a range of less than 500 kilometres. Their military significance will increase once medium-range missiles are eliminated, since Saceur needs them to fulfil its commitment.

The Americans are worried by the fact that during his recent talks with US Secretary of State George Shultz Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher could not be persuaded to drop his demand for negotiations on these systems in the near future.

Herr Genscher feels that a modification of the Montebello resolutions is essential.

Washington, on the other hand, is by no means in a hurry to make such changes.



(Cartoon: Ironimus/Süddeutsche Zeitung)

It would a good thing if existing concern about an exaggerated inclination by Bonn to take Mr Gorbachov literally in everything he says is were at least brought up behind closed doors during the Brussels summit.

Opposition to a mandate for negotiations on conventional stability "from the Atlantic to the Urals" would then be easier to overcome and French fears of Bonn "drifting away" from the alliance could be allayed in favour of a united stance.

However, there is very little to suggest that this can be done. It already looks as if the final communiqué will try to avoid this problem with the help of general statements.

The meeting in Brussels provides a good opportunity to at least take the first step towards overcoming the sterile enumeration methods which dominated the Vienna MBFR negotiations for 14 years.

Instead, the alliance could start turning its attention to the "realistic assessment of the conventional balance of conventional military power" called for in the excellent report compiled by the chairman of a US Congressional committee analysing problems in this field, Senator Levin.

The report indicates that Nato could by and large offset the material advantages of Warsaw Pact countries in decisive fields — modern technology, logistics, economic potential and, above all, morale.

Open discussion is needed on the fact that, for budget policy reasons, America cannot maintain its current level of troops in Western Europe up until the year 2000. Foresighted planning could help resolve this problem.

Experience shows, however, that Nato can only then bring itself to draw such conclusions if it is faced by what it perceives as an immediate threat.

Mr Gorbachov is certainly not going to do Nato this favour. He is only too well aware of the impact psychological impact of his numerous offers in the West.

In view of this situation, wouldn't it be better to hold a conference of experts who are not bothered by domestic and media policy constraints rather than a summit spectacle?

Jan Reifenberg

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 February 1988)

Naval role in Mediterranean poses problems

The transfer of a Bundesmarine naval combat group to the Mediterranean has not caused a major political upset, but that doesn't mean that this is an everyday and completely harmless occurrence.

Apart from friendly visits or repair trips to international ports by individual vessels the Bundesmarine has never before been assigned on an official mission so far away from its home waters, the North Sea and the Baltic.

There are good reasons for this. The superpower affectations associated with turning up in foreign waters don't suit the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Eastern bloc has hardly reacted at all to the move to the Mediterranean by the largest group of German warships since the war. This is probably due to the waning interest in open conflict in the security field.

The lack of consternation in the Federal Republic of Germany itself undoubtedly results from the realisation that Bonn cannot simply sit back and watch as allied fleets seek to carry out a high-risk peace task in the Persian Gulf and keep the seas free for merchant shipping.

Even if the Mediterranean assignment is brought up in the Bundestag by the SPD the discussion would probably show that the Bonn government has only demonstrated a minimum of solidarity by letting various ships operate occasionally in southern waters.

After all, the United States expected much more than the symbolic solidarity shown by the Bundesmarine in taking part in manoeuvres in the Mediterranean, where the US ships operating in the Gulf are missing.

This minimum form of solidarity, however, is as far as Bonn should go.

The government must not yield to demands to send German minesweepers [illegible] Gulf region.

It should not only resist this temptation because the constitution forbids the armed forces to operate outside Nato territory.

If the allocation of tasks within the Nato can no longer be sustained as in the days when the Bundesmarine's sole responsibility was to cover the alliance's northern flank, support in other regions must be provided with extreme caution.

Bundesmarine ships should neither be deployed in a crisis situation in the Gulf nor on a permanent basis in the Mediterranean.

Anything that even smacks of "gunboat politics" must be avoided.

The military role of the Federal Republic of Germany must be as defensive and inconspicuous as possible. In military terms, it is simply not a country like any other.

Internationally, this should not only be demonstrated by German restraint with regard to arms exports and a lack of German involvement in UN peacekeeping or arbitration forces.

The Bundesmarine should keep a low profile even if America constantly urges Bonn to assume greater responsibility for global security.

Growing international mistrust over a German military presence would also have a damaging effect on Nato.

Up to now, respective governments in Bonn have understood how to unobtrusively make a substantial contribution to joint Western defence yet avoid arousing feelings of uneasiness. Things should stay this way.

The German ships sent to the Mediterannean should return home as soon as possible.

What is more, the Bundesmarine is not doing itself a favour if it believes that it can neglect its task of protecting Nato's northern flank for a longer period.

If it stays in the Mediterranean for too long, German naval commanders will find it difficult to sustain their protests about the inferior strength, of Western fleets in the North Sea and the Baltic and the need, say, for additional frigates.

Heinz-Joachim Melder

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 27 January 1988)

■ PEOPLE

Four years in Nuremberg barely dent unemployment



No sure-fire solution: Heinrich Franke (Photo: Archiv)

When he took over as head of the Federal Labour Office in April 1984 Heinrich Franke may have felt a reasonable economic growth rate would be enough to reduce unemployment substantially.

Now, after nearly four years at the helm in Nuremberg, Franke, who was 60 on 26 January, will have changed his mind.

Month after month he announces bad news on the labour market despite a booming economy. Much to the chagrin of many fellow-Christian Democrats, he now feels a "new employment policy strategy" is needed.

He would soonest see public works spending boosted from DM2bn to DM10bn a year, for 10 years if need be, to create new jobs.

A majority in the Bonn coalition, including Chancellor Kohl, with whom he is on first-name terms, may be opposed to such heavy expenditure.

But Herr Franke is convinced, particularly in view of the dollar exchange rate and last October's stock market crash, that "domestic counter-measures must be undertaken should we run the risk of stagnation in foreign trade."

He can do little more than offer his advice; he is not in charge of either labour market or economic policy.

But he makes his mark where he can. When he took over in Nuremberg 70,000 people were employed in job procurement schemes bankrolled by the Labour Office. They now number 120,000.

Labour exchanges also pay for about 60,000 men and women to attend vocational training courses. Such schemes account for most of the decline in unemployment of which the Bonn coalition is so proud.

Not even his opponents have ever disputed the social policy competence of Heinrich Franke, an aero engine mechanic by trade and the father of six sons.

Like Labour Minister Norbert Blüm, he is a Christian Democrat who for decades has been associated with the Social Committees, or working-class wing of the CDU.

Born in Osnabrück, he gained invaluable political experience as a Lower Saxon state assemblyman from 1955 to 1965. Later, in the Bonn Bundestag, he was an outstanding expert on pensions and labour market policy.

He was the CDU/CSU social policy spokesman in the Bundestag, then parliamentary state secretary at the Labour Ministry.

In this capacity he regularly commented for the Bonn government on the monthly labour market statistics presented by his predecessor at the Labour Office, Josef Stingl.

Herr Stingl was often criticised for being too gloomy. Herr Franke, who was sorry to leave Bonn, has since echoed Herr Stingl's sentiments from Nuremberg.

Herr Stingl was an affable Bavarian in his home-state. As a northerner Herr Franke is a cooler customer, yet he has gained a reputation at the Labour Office, which has a payroll of over 60,000, for being a good-natured boss.

He never misses a *Skat* competition (the German card game) and he takes his turn in the canteen queue with the rest at lunchtime.

In dealings with the world at large he suffers at times from allegations of being pro-management. He came under fire in this respect in 1976 when he opposed equal representation on supervisory boards in the industrial democracy debate.

Unions affiliated to the DGB, Germany's Düsseldorf-based trade union confederation, later reviled Franke, who is a member of the DAG, a non-DGB white-collar union, for a ruling that has been clearly endorsed by subsequent legislation.

At the height of the 1984 strikes for a 35-hour week he instructed labour exchanges outside strike areas to stop paying benefits to workers on short time as an indirect result of strikes and lockouts.

Yet Herr Franke, who himself usually works 12 hours a day, is in no way opposed to shorter working hours or their equivalent.

He is strongly in favour of extending early retirement beyond its present deadline and a tireless advocate of ending overtime, now totalling 1.5bn hours a year.

He has also consistently warned against the belief that there is a sure-fire solution to the problem of unemployment. As he puts it in his book *Arbeit für alle* (Jobs for Everyone):

"There is no such thing as a sure-fire solution. Anyone who says there is is deluding either himself or others, and usually others.

"The only solution is to take many small steps, but to do so consistently, courageously and with staying power and a view to the long-term repercussions."

Joachim Hauck

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 26 January 1988)

Avowed technocrat: Klaus Töpfer (Photo: Archiv)

Environmental expert, but 'under fire'

Bonn Environment Minister Klaus Töpfer recently told a CDU party meeting you could only tell a man's mettle by how he fared when the wind blew against him.

Not, perhaps, a very original thought, but true enough of a man in his position. The Environment Minister must daily expect to suffer the slings and arrows of crisis and tumult.

Ministry spokesperson Marlene Mühe says Professor Töpfer is always expecting the next storm to break — which is not to say that he relishes the prospect.

"What makes it so unpleasant," he says, "is that I am immediately taken to task whenever an environmental scandal, real or imaginary, occurs — even though I am not to blame for what caused it and usually have few powers to prevent it."

That, he adds, is simply a fact of life for the Environment Minister. He constantly faces external threats, the latest being the Hanau radioactive waste scandal.

Unlike his predecessor, Walter Wallmann, Professor Töpfer has the advantage of having been a tried and trusted environmental specialist when he moved from Mainz to Bonn just over a year ago.

So no-one disputes the 49-year-old economics professor's qualification for the job. He also describes himself as an "avowed technocrat."

Harald B. Schäfer, environment spokesman for the SPD, says Professor Töpfer is a knowledgeable man. Even Wilhelm Knabe of the Greens pays tribute to his specialised knowledge and personal qualities.

That counts for more than mere fine words at a time when the tenor of behaviour between coalition and Opposition politicians in Bonn has grown extremely rough.

Professor Töpfer was most upset when the Opposition accused him of having suppressed suspicions that uranium capable of being processed to weapons grade had been exported so as to cut a more convincing figure in the Bundestag debate.

No-one who knows him will imagine for one moment that he would go in for such skulduggery. He is far too honest and straightforward a person to indulge in intrigue in Bonn.

He was no less upset that the Hesse

Continued on page 11

Parliamentary commission 'a challenge'

Ingrid Matthäus-Maier, who is to chair the Bundestag committee of inquiry into the Hanau nuclear waste affair, made her views on the subject clear over 10 years ago.

"It has neither been proved that there will be a power shortage if more nuclear power stations are not built," she told an FDP party conference in November 1977, "nor shown that atomic energy and nuclear waste disposal are safe and assured."

Her words sound greatly to the point now there is a glut of electric power and the Hanau nuclear waste affair has shown the disposal of radioactive waste to be a sore point.

At the 1977 party conference Frau Matthäus-Maier, a young Liberal MP, rejected the view espoused by FDP leaders and opposed plans to increase nuclear power capacity.

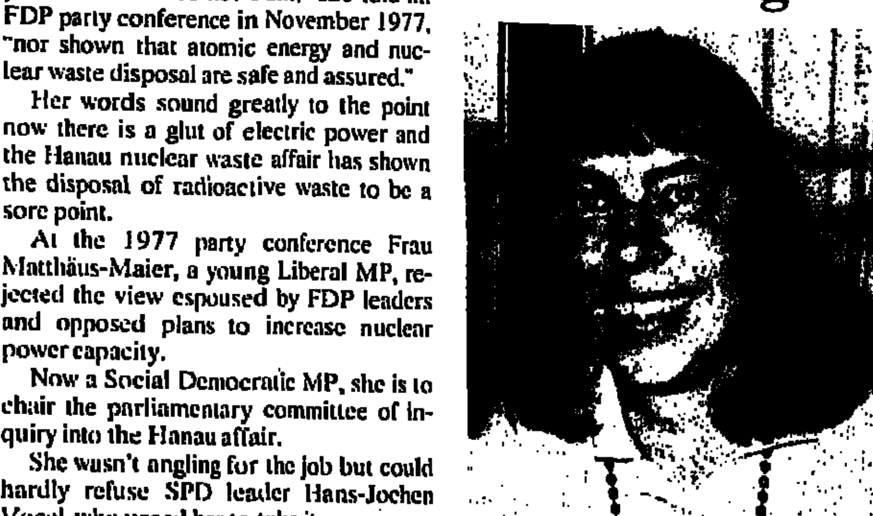
Now a Social Democratic MP, she is to chair the parliamentary committee of inquiry into the Hanau affair.

She wasn't angling for the job but could hardly refuse SPD leader Hans-Jochen Vogel, who urged her to take it on.

Besides, who would spurn the political opportunity of chairing such a spectacular committee of inquiry?

Frau Matthäus-Maier, a 43-year-old administrative court judge, can look back on a political career that has been astonishingly consistent.

Astonishing, that is, for someone who has switched party-political allegiance,





Scathing critic: Ingrid Matthäus-Maier (Photo: dpa)

which in the Federal Republic almost invariably dents and usually ends a career.

But she has always been a most consistent person.

FDP Interior Minister Werner Maihofer was one of the first butts of her criticism in connection with the illegal bugging of the telephone of nuclear scientist Klaus Traube.

In her maiden speech she was scathing in her criticism of Professor Maihofer, who as Interior Minister was politically responsible for the affair.

In 1978 the FDP Ministers in Helmut Schmidt's Bonn Cabinet had to threaten to resign to persuade the FDP parliamentary party not to insist on scrapping the fast breeder reactor programme.

Frau Matthäus-Maier was one of six Free Democrats in the Bundestag who abstained rather than voting in favour of the programme.

When the FDP quit its coalition with the SPD in September 1982 she left the FDP and resigned her seat in parliament.

She did so with high hopes of being able to make a fresh start with the Social Democrats. In 1983 she returned to the Bundestag as an SPD MP.

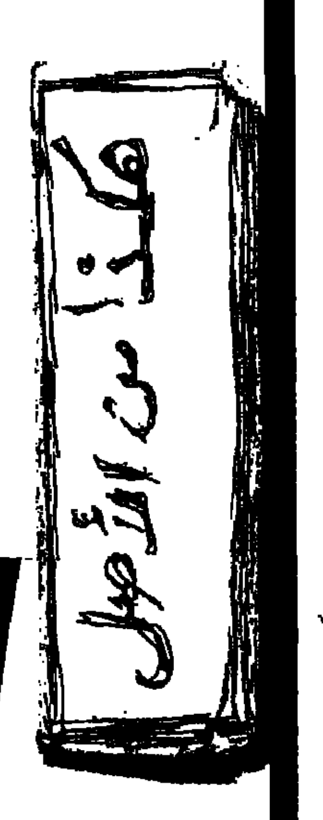
Turncoats are never popular, but Frau Matthäus-Maier is knowledgeable, committed and well able to fend for herself in debate.

She has also been given every encouragement by Hans-Jochen Vogel. With his backing she was elected to the presidium of the SPD parliamentary party last year.

Herr Vogel also promptly proposed her to chair the committee of inquiry.

Volker Jacobs

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 22 January 1988)



■ EAST BLOC

Bundestag debate highlights Eastern Europe's human rights record

The initiators of the Bundestag debate on human rights in Warsaw Pact countries cannot have expected the discussion to have such immediate relevance.

The arrests of dissenters in the GDR, their swift trials and subsequent deportation to the Federal Republic show that human rights in Communist states are still very much at the mercy of the arbitrary whims of the authorities.

So does the tough line taken by *Pravda* against critical Soviet citizens.

Of course, citizens in communist countries are not treated the same way as they were a few decades ago. The CSCE process and the Helsinki accords have made sure of that.

Prompted by questions tabled by Bundestag MPs, Bonn Justice Minister Hans Engelhard asked an "independent commission of experts" in July 1986 to draw up a report on human rights in Eastern European countries.

The Chancellor's Office and Ministry departments interested in this project appointed Professors Brunner (Cologne), Blumenwitz (Würzburg), Klein (Mainz), Mangold (Tübingen), Randelshofer (Berlin), Rohde (Mainz), Schroeder (Regensburg) and Weidenfeld (Mainz) as members of the commission.

Professor Brunner was elected chairman of the commission and his associate Dr Luchterhand was appointed scientific secretary. After 18 months



spent gathering facts and figures the commission submitted its report to the Bonn government and Chancellor Kohl passed it on to parliament.

Bundestag publication No. 11/1344 is 234 pages long.

With proverbial German thoroughness the commission appraised the major human rights conventions binding under international law, the self-conception of Communist states, the constitutional safeguards and the day-to-day practice of human rights in Bulgaria, the GDR, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. According to Professor Brunner, an expert on the law of East Bloc countries, no other Western country has produced a comparable report.

Special attention was paid to the situation of German minorities in the countries surveyed.

The commission did not look into individual cases; it relied on material gleaned from official sources and supplied by organisations such as Amnesty International and the International Human Rights Association.

The report's primary yardsticks for criticism of the regulation and application of civil and human rights in individual countries were the "International Pact on Civil and Political Rights" and the "International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights" of 19 December 1966.

Both have been ratified by all member-states of the Warsaw Pact.

Only Hungary, however, has integrated these agreements in its national law in such a way as to enable all citizens to cite their stipulations in court or in dealings with other state bodies.

According to the commission, there is an "inestimably large" number of persons "who must reckon with considerable problems in everyday life because of expressing opinions which differ from official views".

Critical views can mean losing a job or chances of promotion and a cancellation of holidays. In some cases children are even taken away from their parents.

"Such discriminations occur in the Soviet Union, the GDR, Czechoslovakia and Romania in connection with expressing critical views," says the report.

Access to information from abroad is also one of the basic rights agreed on in the afore-mentioned international agreements.

The commission, however, arrives at the conclusion that "the Soviet Union, the GDR, Czechoslovakia and Romania violate these civil rights and liberties if they *de jure* or *de facto* ban access to available Western printed documents.

After the commission's report was published there was a particularly extreme case in this field.

A speech given by the SPD politician Karsten Voigt at the training centre of the Socialist Unity Party (SED) in East Berlin was not allowed to be sent to the GDR by post.

Even the airwaves are under strict control. "The jamming measures by the Soviet Union against foreign broadcasting stations which broadcast transborder programmes breach international law," the commission claims.

All the countries covered by the report violate against the freedom of religious worship or — interpreted on a broader basis — the freedom of conscience.

People are already confronted at school by the aim of political authorities to enforce the rule of atheism.

"By making the Marxist-Leninist educational goals of socialism and communism compulsory," says the report, "all Warsaw Pact countries, with the exception of Poland, have eliminated the *national legal basis for the right of parents* to give their children the religious education they see fit."

Even in Hungary, where religious instruction is now permitted in schools again, it looks as if high pupil attendance at such lessons is held against teachers and headmasters.

"In the USSR, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria the massive atheistic and anti-religious propaganda of the state-controlled media already in itself constitutes a form of inadmissible (physical) duress," the report maintains.

The Bundestag debate will undoubtedly discuss whether the commission's optimistic assessment that the situation of religious communities has "improved considerably" in the GDR and Poland can be supported in the light of the involvement of the Protestant Church in the current dispute over dissenters in the GDR.

At the moment, neither political scientists nor politicians in the Federal Republic can predict the extent to which a possible behind-the-scenes deal between the Communist Party and the Church may damage or impair the "appreciable autonomy" of the latter and the "procedures of dialogue between the state leadership and the religious communities".

The arrests of civil rights campaigners in East Berlin and in other parts of the GDR on and after 17 January together with the subsequent trials drew attention to the serious problems of human rights in criminal proceedings and in the penal system.

In this field all communist states have one thing in common: there is a very broad interpretation of what constitutes a political crime. In the GDR, for example, "hooliganism" is punished almost as severely as "sabotage" and "riotous assembly".

This situation violates international law.

These countries also straddle the thin line of legality in matters of defence, since defence counsels are often admitted to court proceedings at a ridiculously late stage.

It can be up to 60 days before they are allowed to plead in Romania. The most favourable regulations for defendants are in Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

The independence of the courts also leaves a great deal to be desired.

"The interference of party bodies in the administration of justice reported in the case of all Warsaw Pact states with the exception of Hungary violate the right to an independent and impartial court," the commission complains in its report.

No attempt is made to even create an apparent independence of judges, since "the judges in the Soviet Union, the GDR, Bulgaria and Romania are only in office for a few years."

The GDR takes the lead when it comes to closing court cases to the public. There have, however, been improvements recently and the courts have, according to the commission's report, avoided "arrests and sentences on obviously insufficient grounds".

It seems doubtful whether Bundestag MPs will share the commission's optimistic appraisal following the recent deportations of GDR dissenters.

General agreement can, however, be expected with regard to the sharp criticism of the torture used to force confessions and of prison conditions which are often still comparable with those during the first post-war decade.

In the Soviet Union, for example, the heads of prisoners are shaven in the "detention isolator" and in the GDR undisciplined prisoners are forced to "lie down in their excrement".

"Finally," the report continues, "there are cases of manhandling and brutality by prison staff in all Warsaw Pact countries except Hungary as well as of a deliberate toleration or even provocation of maltreatment by fellow-prisoners on the part of prison staff."

The Bundestag debate will show whether the parties are willing to discuss what communist states regard as their "internal affairs" and would like to hide from the international public eye in the East-West dialogue.

Georg Paul Hefty

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 4 February 1988)

■ THE ECONOMY

Cocom must not be allowed to fray at the edges



Since Foreign Minister Genscher's last stopover in Washington two major misunderstandings have plagued the debate on the Cocom regulations governing exports of sensitive technology to the East Bloc.

The first, erroneous assumption is that export restrictions agreed by the 17 Cocom member-countries are to be relaxed or even softened.

The second, mistaken impression is that amendments to the Cocom list of technology classified as militarily or strategically sensitive might give flagging trade with the East Bloc a much-needed boost.

The high-level expert consultations in Versailles on a revision of the Cocom list is in no way aimed at easing bans on the export of technology that might be of benefit to armaments in the Soviet Union or its satellite states.

Checks are in future to concentrate more on essentials, meaning goods and documents that for security reasons must on no account be exported to East Bloc countries.

Hundreds of items may be deleted from the Cocom list in the process, but that need not mean a major upswing in trade with the East.

Trade isn't hampered to any great extent by the Cocom rules. They apply to less than one per cent of exports to the East Bloc from the Federal Republic of Germany.

That in turn means that Cocom-listed goods, which may or may not be refused export permits, account for a mere 0.05 per cent of German exports.

Recent setbacks in East Bloc trade have been due mainly to the decline in Soviet foreign exchange earnings since the price of oil and natural gas has plummeted.

Cocom regulations undeniably rule out exports in certain categories. That is what they are intended to do. They also undeniably complicate export business with the East Bloc.

They entail protracted application and permit procedures rather than a general export ban. Many applications are simply not made, would-be exporters realising that permission is unlikely to be granted.

Even so, Cocom rules need not wreak havoc on German export potential. Ninety-five per cent of the 6,000 applications submitted last year were approved.

Besides, imaginative exporters are adept at finding technical solutions for which Cocom procedures are not mandatory.

German plant manufacturers are now exporting to East Bloc countries assembly lines equipped with computers no longer on the Cocom list.

They may not be the fastest computers currently available for the job, but slightly slower models serve the purpose quite satisfactorily.

What most annoys East Bloc principals is that Western exporters are not allowed, by virtue of the Cocom regulations, to sell them the latest equipment. Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze made it clear in Bonn how irksome this is when he referred to "that confounded list."

It particularly irritates and is criticised by Soviet leaders because the Soviet Union and other East Bloc countries remain heavily dependent on Western technology even though Mr Shevardnadze may say they don't really need it.

The main gist of Moscow's latest attack on the Cocom list is that obstacles to trade must be eliminated before any further improvement in East-West relations.

Herr Genscher says the Federal Republic must seek all forms of cooperation, including technological and economic, as relations between Bonn and Moscow remain a linchpin of East-West ties.

There must be no demarcation in relations with the East and no technological division of Europe. It is perhaps just as well he does at least add that the nucleus of Cocom, export controls for technology of security relevance, is inviolable.

The security of the West cannot be neglected simply on the ground that disarmament is the subject of negotiations, initial results having already been achieved.

Even in the course of disarmament it would remain important for arms technology available to the East not to be modernised with Western assistance. So Cocom must not be allowed to fray at the edges.

In concentrating on key military-strategic technology and technological know-how the East lacks, the Cocom control system must be improved and procedures accelerated.

Much too much time is wasted on red tape. Every effort must be made to control more strictly and effectively exports of goods on a Cocom list specifying fewer products, and these efforts must be undertaken in equal measure in all Cocom countries.

There is, of course, no such thing as a control system that is 100-per-cent effective, but the Cocom countries must redouble their joint endeavours to make the system more efficient.

One improvement is that Finland, Sweden and Switzerland now monitor their exports to the East Bloc on the same basis as Cocom countries.

Austria would do well to join them, especially as it is keen to establish closer ties with the European Community.

If controls were more thorough it would be easier to check the progress of an export consignment from initial despatch to its final destination.

All countries taking part in the control system must be able to rely on each other.

What must, however, be avoided is for stricter checks of exports to the East to be so thorough as to upset the flow of goods and exchange of scientific and technological information in the West.

Klaus Broichhausen

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 30 January 1988)

Economic targets for 1988 are too optimistic

Most of the targets outlined in the Bonn government's 1988 economic report published on 28 January were already common knowledge.

It was also clear that these targets would probably be overambitious and unlikely to facilitate a sober appraisal of actual economic developments.

This particularly applies to the assumptions that real GNP (less inflation) will increase by not less than 1.5 to 2 per cent, that exports will also increase by between 1.5 and 2.5 per cent, and

Mannheimer MORGEN

that the increase in investments in machinery and equipment will only fall from 4.2 per cent last year to between 2 and 3 per cent this year.

The assumption that the number of employed persons will increase by 60,000 and the jobless figure by only 20,000 must also be viewed sceptically.

The Bonn government finds itself in a dilemma.

The extent of the repercussions of the stockmarket crash on the economy is still not clear.

Experts in the Tax Estimation Committee will only venture to publish the bare facts on declining tax revenue and the inability to meet budget requirements in May.

A reliable forecast of the exact extent of additional new government borrowing, which Bonn Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg has put at DM10bn, also seems unlikely until the spring.

The subsidy requirements for the Airbus project and the government's coking coal subsidies are two major determinant factors.

With important *Land* elections not far off the government is trying to allay mounting pessimism and spread a mood of optimism.

The problem is, however, that the exaggerated optimism of the forecasts in its annual report is unlikely to boost its credibility.

There were lengthy discussions in the government coalition over whether to state in the report that the government is prepared to effectively intervene in the course of economic development if the situation does not shape up as favourably as predicted. The coalition decided not to do so.

A major reason was concern that firms might then decide to postpone their investment decisions.

The truth is, however, that growing financial commitments to the European Community and other tax revenue losses have considerably reduced the scope of government action.

The government will find it extremely difficult in the early summer to stimulate the economy even more without going beyond the scope of acceptable new borrowing.

There are hard times ahead for policymakers in Bonn.

Everybody is going to have to tighten their belt in the medium term, even though many people are not yet aware of this fact.

Ernst Georg

(Mannheimer Morgen, 26 January 1988)

Franco-German plan irks Bundesbank

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Bonn will hear nothing of criticism voiced in connection with plans to set up a Franco-German economic affairs council.

Government spokesman Herbert Schmülling, sounding a reassuring note in Bonn, said the legally guaranteed autonomy of the Bundesbank was in no way jeopardised by the council.

Chancellor Kohl, speaking at the official gathering in Paris, went even further, saying practical solidarity, economic convergence and monetary discipline were what was needed.

The Federal Republic and France jointly proposed to play a "pioneering role" in bringing about a European economic and monetary union, he said.

Bundesbank president Karl-Otto Pöhl feels the proposed council is not the right way to go about it.

The Bundesbank's central bank council only agreed to the idea subject to the proviso that legal scrutiny of the protocol showed there would be no restrictions on Bundesbank autonomy.

Bonn government officials readily admit that the economic affairs council was set up largely in response to pressure from the French government.

It was the French who insisted on it being set up not just by means of *a government agreement* or a mere exchange of notes but by way of a binding international treaty requiring ratification by the French National Assembly and the German Bundestag.

Officials in Bonn also admit that the French are partly motivated by a desire to bring the self-assured Bundesbank more into line with French monetary interests.

But both governments stress that the agreement now reached is a far cry from the European central bank the French have long advocated.

The council will consist of the French and German Economic Affairs and Finance Ministers and the two countries' central bank governors.

It will, Bonn stresses, be a strictly consultative, as opposed to a decision-making, body. It will, as Herr Schmülling puts it, merely formalise existing economic and financial relations.

It consists of three typewritten pages. The point that has evidently upset Herr Pöhl is the second sentence of Article 3, which says the council "will aim to reach agreement on all issues it feels to lie within the responsibilities of Ministers that serve on it."

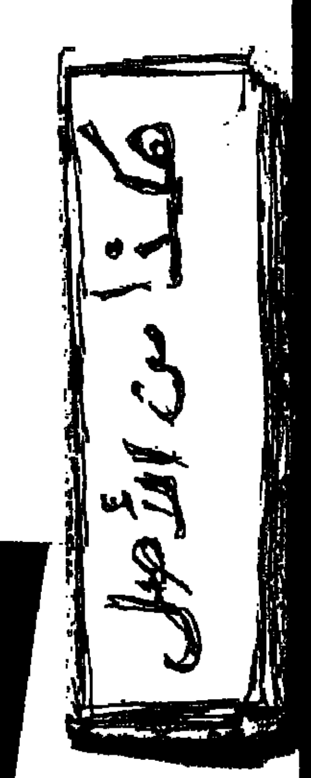
The implication is, arguably, that central bank governors with their responsibilities are council members but that it will be for Economic Affairs and Finance Ministers to decide what issues are to be discussed.

Herr Pöhl, Bonn officials say, is probably upset that he is merely a member of the council, not more.

Bonn Finance Ministry spokesman Karlheinz von den Driesch adds that the council will merely hold consultations such as have for years been held under the aegis of the European Monetary System.

He sees this as an exemplary feature

Continued on page 8



■ INDUSTRY

Hoechst makes headway toward high chem



Hoechst AG of Frankfurt, one of Germany's Big Three chemicals companies, has been in business — and gone from strength to strength — for 125 years.

Hoechst workers were long known as the Reds because of the red dye that discoloured their aprons and shoes. The name stuck; the company diversified.

The tale began in 1863 when chemists Dr Eugen Lucius and Dr Adolf Brüning joined forces with businessmen Wilhelm Meister and August Müller to manufacture aniline dyes.

Diversification led in 1880 to the company being renamed AG Farbwerke, vormals Meister, Lucius & Brüning.

The pace of pharmaceutical research has revolutionised medicine. Hoechst highlights have included the manufacture of tetanus serum in 1884, of the first synthetic hormone, adrenaline, in 1904, and, in collaboration with Paul Ehrlich, the development of the first drug to cure syphilis in 1910.

They were followed by the first laboratory manufacture of penicillin in 1942 and the manufacture of synthetic human insulin by means of genetic engineering in 1983.

Many large-scale chemical products such as artificial resin, fertilisers and industrial gases went largely unnoticed, but the triumphant progress of synthetics since the Second World War has brought about lasting changes in everyday life.

Hoechst have been very much in the running, partly with synthetic materials of their own, partly with materials manufactured under licence.

They include brand names such as Cellophane, Hostalen, Hostaflon, Perlon and Trevira, all of which are indispensable in fashion, the home and technology respectively.

There have also been darker chapters in the company's history, periods it is reluctant to recall.

The leading German chemicals companies began to pool resources in the First World War and finally merged to form IG Farben in 1926.

After the Second World War IG Farben was accused of greatly assisting Hitler to rearm Germany and of employing foreign workers as slave labour.

IG Farben came under a particularly dark cloud when what had gone on in the gas chambers at Auschwitz became common knowledge.

Auschwitz concentration camp prisoners were employed at a nearby IG Farben works. IG Farben also supplied Zyklon B gas, used by the SS in the gas chambers to annihilate Jews and others.

Two dozen leading IG Farben executives were acquitted on this score by the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal. They were found not to have known that Zyklon B was used to gas people.

But some of the 24 were given prison sentences for plundering foreign factories or maltreating foreign workers.

Since the war, and certainly for the past 25 years, Hoechst have gone from strength to strength if the accounts are any guide.

Yet in terms of strategy the past 25 years have been a period of appraisal, of rounding off, of choosing sectors that were expected to be of long-term significance and of parting company with others that had arguably been acquired for tactical rather than strategic reasons.

In a strategic move Hoechst bought a majority shareholding in Chemische Werke Albert, Wiesbaden, in 1964. In an equally important move Hoechst and Adolf Messer set up Messer-Griesheim GmbH.

The Group was thus firmly established in industrial gases and lasers.

In 1968 Hoechst announced collaboration with Roussel Uclaf, Paris, the second-largest French pharmaceutical company.

In 1974 Hoechst took over a majority shareholding in the French firm.

IG Farben was not split up entirely until 1970, with Hoechst being awarded a majority shareholding in the nearby Casella AG, Frankfurt.

From now on Hoechst really made headway, as shown by R & D spending, which exceeded DM1bn for the first time in 1977.

A striking feature in more ways than one was that in genetic engineering, one of the most promising new sectors, Hoechst chose to join forces not with another German firm but to go international.

In 1981 a contract was signed with the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass.

The pace of growth increased at such a rate that by 1985 Hoechst invested DM2bn in R & D, 40 per cent in pharmaceutical research.

In 1985 Hoechst also set foot in another *promising sector, that of industrial ceramics*, with the takeover of Rosenthal Technik AG.

Shortly afterwards Hoechst embarked on the largest takeover in German industrial history by acquiring the American Celanese Corp., making the Group a leading world manufacturer of man-made fibres. In 25 years Group turnover has increased from DM3.7bn to nearly DM40bn and the payroll from 55,000 to 181,200.

One aspect has so far proved less spectacular than was optimistically imagined when Kuwait announced, in 1982, that it held just under 25 per cent of Hoechst shares.

There were visions of what might result from Arab oil and German chemicals joining forces, but there have been no announcements yet of spectacular breakthroughs of any kind.

Otto Schwarzer

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 29 January 1988)

Company brief

Turnover: Over DM38bn in 1987, mostly abroad.

Products: Roughly 6,500, with over 4,000 new products having been introduced in the past 10 years.

Payroll: Over 160,000 worldwide, including about 100,000 in Germany.

R & D: Over 14,700 R & D staff at research facilities in 14 countries. The Group holds over 31,000 current patents and invests over DM2bn a year in research and development.

Hoechst high chem is the slogan, with the emphasis on genetic engineering in this, the Group's jubilee year.

Pharmaceutical research is particularly aimed at developing drugs for heart and circulatory complaints, rheumatism, cancer and Aids.

World representation: Hoechst AG is represented in 120 countries and has production facilities in its own in 64 countries.

Environmental protection: Investment totalling DM2.2bn is planned by 1998.

Shareholders: Hoechst stock is held by about 330,000 shareholders in 111 countries. Forty-four per cent of the share capital, with a total nominal value of DM2.8bn, is held abroad.

Since 1960 about 65,000 Hoechst workers have bought staff shares.

Vocational training: The Group trains over 6,500 young people at 32 training facilities in the Federal Republic.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 28 January 1988)

Hanover Fair 'bigger and better'

Like CeBIT, the Hanover office machinery and information technology fair, the traditional Hanover Fair, with the emphasis on industry, will be larger this year than last.

The Hanover Fair authority's Klaus E. Goehrmann says about 5,600 exhibitors are expected, or roughly 270 more than two years ago when the last comparable fair was held.

The number of foreign exhibitors is up by well over 40 at 1,700-plus, foreign companies with subsidiaries in the Federal Republic being counted as domestic exhibitors.

Stand space is up from 280,000 to roughly 316,000 square metres, or about 80 acres.

Herr Goehrmann was less forthcoming about the number of visitors expected to pass through the turnstiles. He said about 450,000 — or the average for recent years — were expected.

In 1986 there were 390,000 visitors. Last year's total was 495,000.

Tickets will cost more, the first price increase for four years. Day tickets will cost DM24, or two marks more, season tickets DM58, or three marks more.

The 1988 Hanover Industrial Fair will be opened by Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the CeBIT Fair by Economic Affairs Minister Martin Bangemann, who will comment on both at the end of the industrial fair.

It will consist of 14 specialised fairs and a programme of accompanying events. Topics would range, Herr Goehrmann said, from the raw material to the product and from the idea to a functioning system of tailor-made solutions cut to the cloth of progressive industrialisation.

A new feature will be the Optec fair, dealing with technical optics and lasers, and held in conjunction with an international laser congress.

Most exhibitors will, as in the past, represent the international electronics market.

This year's partner-country is Yugoslavia, with about 40 exhibitors. Its predecessors were China and Bulgaria.

Most foreign exhibitors will, as in the past, be from France, Italy and Switzerland, with fewer exhibitors from Spain and the United States.

Herr Goehrmann feels the dollar exchange rate may have decided a number of US companies to cut costs and not exhibit at Hanover this year.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 January 1988)

■ INDUSTRY

Economists say Germany runs serious risk of trailing the field in key sectors



Three factors characterise German industry at present in the arena of international competition:

- export industries are strong,
- some sectors shelter behind protectionist measures,
- some are incapable of meeting foreign competition head-on because they are debilitated by state subsidies.

Franz Beckenbauer would be risking his job if he managed the national soccer team by putting all his hopes on a super forward line that made mincement of the opposite side's defence, then dressed the rest of the team in ice-hockey-like gear giving good protection but hindering movement.

Beckenbauer would be in real trouble if he tried to bribe the weak back line by promising them more money, should they fail to function properly, and none put in any systematic training.

Admittedly the "playing strength," the constitution of German industry, is certainly not weak. But it is not as good as it could be.

It is true to say that industrial structure has deteriorated over the past few years.

The Kiel-based Institute for World Economics recently wrote: "The boom of the last few years has distracted German industry from introducing structural changes. It is bogged down waiting to make the necessary adjustments."

The German Institute for Economic Research, based in Berlin, commented: "Obviously there is not enough economic dynamism to make use of industrial potential available."

The Munich-based Ifo Institute, the Rhenish-Westphalian Institute for Economic Research in Essen and the HWWA Institute in Hamburg have all come out with the same line.

They were all commissioned by the Economic Affairs Ministry in Bonn to analyse structural developments in German industry.

Their assessments, that have just been made public, parallel the general view expressed by the "Five Wise Men," as the panel of economic advisers to the Federal government are known.

In their last report they warned: "A decisive factor for weak growth rates is that too many problems involving structural change have been neglected, in some instances not even a start has been made on them." The problem sectors not tackled include agriculture, mining, shipbuilding, the steel industry and railways.

The state has stepped in with massive subsidies to these sectors to cushion the effects of structural change. In fact by so doing the state has blocked change.

The Essen Institute regards subsidy policies to have been a flop, and HWWA commented: "The principle, endlessly reiterated by the Bonn government, that subventions would not distort competition has not been borne out to all practical purposes."

The result is that the state provides more and more cash that hinders vital structural change rather than promoting it.

Pressures to adjust increased considerably during the 1980s, but not sufficient notice was given to them. The need for adjustment just got greater.

In this connection HWWA cites the examples of suppliers of building materials such as items made from glass, ceramics and timber, as well as the leather industry, shipping, the oil industry and the retail trade.

Since 1960 as many as 29 sectors have been at a disadvantage as regards structural change and since 1973 seven other sectors have joined them.

Only four sectors have been able to achieve sustained production and consolidation of profits — the transport industry (excluding shipping and railways), cellulose and paper manufacturing, the rubber industry and non-ferrous metals production.

Overall the average age of buildings and equipment has increased — a sign that investment has been delayed too long.

A serious *structural problem* is that there has been inadequate growth among other branches — and certainly not at a fast enough rate — to replace sectors that have been dwindling.

The Federal Republic is a leader in engineering and steel construction, car manufacture, in chemicals, electrical engineering and in the production of man-made fibres. Their strong point is that they are technologically-intensive products. Furthermore they have a wide range of products.

At this point the first disadvantages emerge. Exports of electrical engineering products, office equipment, EDP equipment and cars come slap up against Japanese competition.

The situation is marginally worse when one looks at the Federal Republic's position in advanced technology. This country only comes after America, Britain, France and Japan.

The Federal Republic is a net importer of products in this sector. This is a sobering thought when it is remembered that these markets have the largest growth opportunities worldwide, markets in which the Federal Republic cuts a relatively weak figure.

The Ifo Institute points out another factor: in the Federal Republic the ability for research and development to move into new fields of activity is not as swift as it is in the USA and Japan. The Ifo Institute claims that "the extreme number of regulations" hampers speedy action.

The Ifo Institute had particularly in mind communications, transport and energy infrastructure — those very sectors where the application of new technology is of vital importance.

Service industries have been particularly neglected. One example: the Americans have a leading position in management consultancy, even in the Federal Republic. The same is true of data banks.

This is also a sobering thought when it is remembered that the one "raw material" the Federal Republic can *least* do without is "know-how." *Key* areas in the communications industries have been abandoned to other countries, at home and abroad.

All this is very important for jobs in the Federal Republic. Rationalisation has been more or less completed where unskilled and semi-skilled staffs are concerned. Skilled workers in industry now have the skids under them.

The service industries offer new job possibilities. Sixty per cent of new jobs originate in this sector. With less regulation this figure could be far higher.

"Nevertheless, as the gap between the forerunners and the latecomers to structural change gets ever wider so regional differences become more marked — the north-south gradient gets steeper.

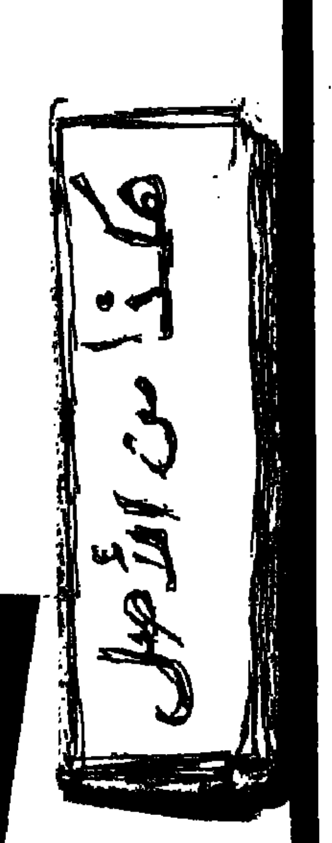
The Kiel Institute for World Economics points out that there has not been enough development in regions which, on average, have a high proportion of "standard industries."

They not only pay relatively higher wages but they are also supported by the state.

That is fatal for "high wages and considerable state protection heightens the problems of the structurally weak regions."

Theo Mönch-Tegeder

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 29 January 1988)



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of the new agreement. Herr Pöhl sees it as a deterrent example. He says the Bundesbank has regularly found treaty provisions of this kind to be interpreted differently by EMS member-governments.

He recalls French government complaints that the Bundesbank had breached the spirit of the EMS by failing to lend the franc sufficient support.

The protocol includes little else that might create difficulties. It commits Bonn and Paris to harmonising their economic policies as far as possible and to approximating their views on international economic and financial matters.

The council is entrusted with submitting a report to the German Chancellor and to the French President and Prime Minister at Franco-German summits and authorised to submit for consideration all issues requiring a decision by the two governments.

The council is to meet four times a year, first in France, then in Germany. It will have four main tasks:

- The "basic outlines" of budgets are to be "discussed" before national budgets are approved by governments and parliaments.
- The two countries' economic positions and economic policies are to be regularly reviewed with a view to the "greatest possible degree of coordination."
- French and German monetary policy "in the national, European and international sectors" will be discussed with a view to "the greatest possible degree of coordination."
- The two countries' viewpoints on "international negotiations in respect of economic issues" are also to be harmonised.

Jörg Bischoff/Joachim Schaufuss

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 23 January 1988)

■ PROFILE

High-flying Porsche grandson is chief executive at new, high-tech Audi



Ferdinand Piëch drives his Audi on the autobahn at night like a Lufthansa jet. Only the car's aerodynamic design, which he helped to develop, prevents the car from taking off. The 50-year-old Porsche grandson claims to have done the 70 kilometres from Ingolstadt to Munich in 13 minutes.

At the beginning of the month, Piëch moved up from head of development to chief executive of Audi.

As head of development he put the firm's models into the high-tech class. Statistics show that Audi has improved its image much more than any other car in the last decade.

Daimler-Benz is still at number one. BMW clings to the number two spot. But Audi is breathing down its neck.

A year ago, the public saw Audi, the make with four hoops as its logo, as a family car like Renault.

Piëch changed the car's somewhat staid and unimaginative image with a resolute high technology policy. The Quattro model got a four-wheel drive and the best aerodynamics of any series car.

The new technology won Audi world rally championships, which did not do their sales any harm at all. The company's fully galvanised cars carry the first global ten-year guarantee against rust. Piëch said: "We can make the offer because we have developed a new technique to reinforce the zinc coating on the car."

The four-wheel drive was the car's second innovation. The Japanese brought the first four-wheel drive family car onto the market. Audi learned from their competitors and came up with a better solution to design problems.

Their four-wheel design won them the lead in the market. One technician said: "A so-called Torsen differential replaces the bevel gear differential. It's now possible to have a variable distribution of power between the front and back axle depending on the road grip."

Austrian-born Piëch is not just banking on technological innovation to sell the car. He intends to change the organisation of the firm's marketing division.

"To sell our products better we will open Audi sales facilities in large cities. Dealers for both Volkswagen, the parent company, and Audi will have to display the two brands separately."

Despite the general acceptance of Audi's outstanding technique and sales of 420,000 last year — the best in the firm's history — profits are still not high enough. As a result, Piëch has been praised for producing a brilliant product but criticised for lacking practical business sense.

He rejects this criticism: "It costs money to change an image. Of course we won't get the profits we would like for a new series right away. Our intention was to get returns on investment in the medium term."

His argument sounds plausible. But prejudices are stubborn. The missing profits and his reputation for being insensitive toward his colleagues suddenly jeopardised his position at Audi.

Piëch, who qualified at Zürich Technical University and joined the board at 38, was kept waiting in suspense about his future. Board chairman Habbel stymied his career by renewing his own contract as head of the firm just before it was due to expire.

How does one overcome stalling like that in one's career? Piëch gave a hesitant answer. "As a non-political person I've learnt how important politics is in the company. I learnt a lot about the business during those difficult months," he said.

He did not want to say any more. Even though the whole fuss surrounding him was nearly a reversal of fortunes which temporarily put him in an off-side professional position.

At first he did not want to believe the wall of opposition which was erected against him. It took him a long time to accept this. It took him even longer to get over it. "Sometimes being best is not enough," he said.

Then a Japanese Press report said Piëch would be going as head of development *to a Far Eastern company. The news* set alarm bells ringing at Volkswagen, the parent company, in Wolfsburg.

Piëch keeps quiet about whether he really intended to go abroad. Instead he rubs his forehead and stares into space as if he had forgotten your question.

He will not accept that the swift fall of Werner Breitschwerdt at Daimler-Benz, also a renowned engineer, indicates that engineers make bad executives.

He is now head of the firm. But all the same he has far less work developing important technical innovations in products. Previously he had to go through arduous discussions with people who were not engineers and which only harmed the team spirit.

Piëch says Europeans could learn about teamwork from the Japanese. "Their managers are all engineers," he said.



Ferdinand Piëch

(Photo: AP)

The Audi head makes no secret of his admiration for the Japanese. "Europeans are individualists who look out for themselves. The Japanese give priority to team spirit. A marriage of our creativity to Asian diligence and team spirit would be an ideal combination."

It's not easy to get Piëch to come out of his shell. He was asked whether 12 was a magical number for him. Whether there was any connection between having 12 children and rumours of his intentions to build a 12-cylinder engine.

Piëch contracted his brow and said: "What have my children got to do with 12 cylinders?" We will, he said "introduce soon an eight-cylinder engine. That's all we have planned."

The eight-cylinder Audi will go on *show first at the Paris* car show this autumn. Piëch does not want to build a bigger transmission. "Cars with large cylinders and fuel consumption die quickly in a crisis."

He is well aware of crises. His shares in the Porsche company have dropped in value and the production of the 924 by Audi for Porsche has stopped. But Piëch takes Audi's problems more to heart than Porsche's.

His grandfather Ferdinand founded Porsche. The grandfather made his name as a designer and developer.

Before he joined Audi, Piëch worked his way up from senior clerk to head of development with a seat on the board. So he was following his grandfather's footsteps.

His excellent connections helped his career. But they also had their disadvantages. He suffered from being compared to the achievements of his grandfather.

He left the board after the Porsche family decided that no member of the family should be on the management.

He says the decision to keep family members off the board was correct. The management, he said, "must be able to make independent decisions."

The cooperation with the parent company in Wolfsburg is also an unavoidable topic. People have cast doubts about producing separately components as similar as the four-wheel drive, the axles and the turbo system.

Sometimes, says Piëch, "we can benefit from competition among ourselves. But we do make decisions on a majority basis."

The firm does not always run so smoothly. "There is a big difference in mental outlook between southern Germany and Alaska," he says. "Wolfsburg is not Alaska, of course, but it has a little in common with it."

Heinz Horrmann

(Die Welt, Bonn, 21 January 1988)

Continued from page 1

United States. He was indirectly critical of US plans for bilateral talks between Israel and Jordan along Camp David lines with a view to limited self-government for the occupied territories.

Unlike the United States, Herr Genscher said in a radio interview he was in favour of an international peace conference.

The European Community must "not adopt a passive attitude toward developments in the Middle East."

King Hussein, he said, must outline the Arab viewpoint to the European Community's Foreign Ministers.

On account of the latest US moves it was unclear beforehand whether the EPC conference, chaired by Herr Genscher, would adopt a fresh resolution or make do with a Press conference held by the German Foreign Minister and Council chairman.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 February 1988)

■ FILMS

North-South contrast set in Berlin and Buenos Aires

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Jeanine Meerapfel wrote the script herself for her latest film, *La Amiga*, a German-Argentine co-production, set in Berlin and Buenos Aires.

The film tells the story of the friendship, spread over many years, of two very different women.

For a few days the film was shot in the Kreuzberg district of Berlin. But the evening I interviewed Liv Ullmann it was not the Berlin scenes that were before the camera but a re-run of one of the meetings of the two main actresses in the film, Maria, played by Liv Ullmann, and Raquel, played by Cipe Linkovsky. This had to be re-filmed because of damage to film negatives previously shot.

The scene comes at almost the end of the film. Although the two women have for a long time been separated they realise that despite their different perceptions of life they can still feel affinities with one another.

It was difficult to get the right atmosphere immediately, particularly as the shooting of this scene was added to a day's filming in East Berlin.

The counter-shots involving Cipe Linkovsky were all right, only Liv Ullmann was in front of the camera.

She plays one of the "Mothers of the Plaza Mayor," whose daughters or sons disappeared during the Argentine military dictatorship.

Maria refuses to believe that her son is dead, even through many years have passed since he mysteriously disappeared.

Her friend, Raquel, a famous Jewish actress, who has helped her in her search for her son, demands that she at last comes to terms with the situation.

In just a few minutes and in only a few lines of dialogue Liv Ullmann has to demonstrate that Maria has not come to terms with the situation but that she has become realistic.

With a mixture of laughter and tears Liv Ullmann's face reflects her joy over the revival of her friendship while at the same time showing just how much this tragic experience has marked Maria's life.

After the shooting there was time to have a few words with Liv Ullmann.

It was her fifth visit to Berlin, but every time she had only been to the city "for work." Even this time she did not have time to herself to see the city.

Of her week in Berlin two days were spent in Düsseldorf where she had to perform her duties as Unicef ambassadress.

Liv Ullmann and Jeanine Meerapfel met a few years ago when they both served on the jury for the Berlin Film Festival. Ullmann saw the first draft of the script that Meerapfel had written then.

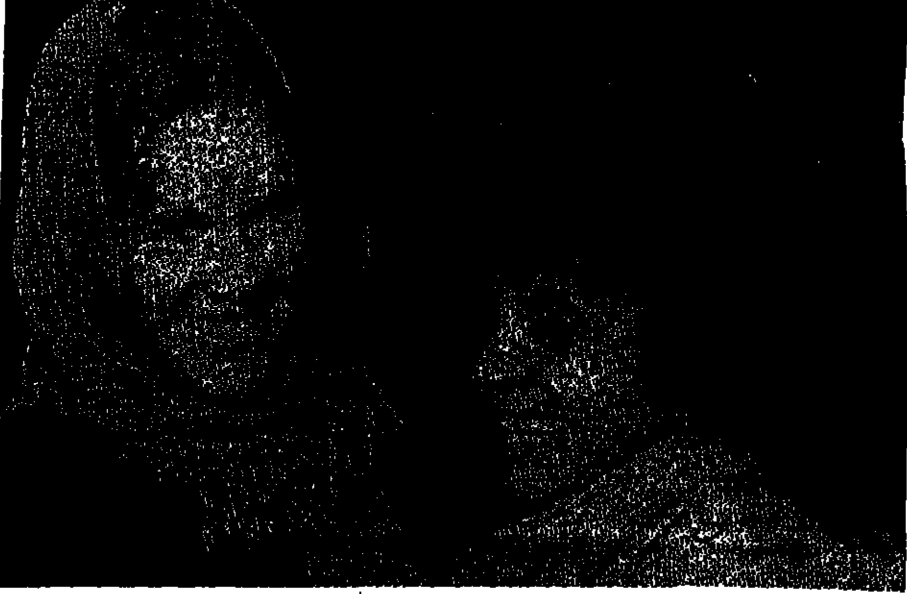
She accepted the role because Jeanine Meerapfel had "my full confidence" after she had seen some of Meerapfel's films.

The two are not quite at one about the character of Maria. Ullmann believes that this woman, at first a shy and retiring housewife, gains in self-assurance after her political commitment. She is basically naive and draws her strength from this quality.

Meerapfel sees her as a woman with political awareness after all she has suffered and seen.

The script has a long history. The political background was researched in the first place by historian Osvaldo Bayer.

Then Jeanine Meerapfel worked out the structure of the film dealing with the women's friendship with Agnieszka Holland, the Polish film-maker and former assistant to Andrzej Wajda, living in exile.



Liv Ullmann and Cipe Linkovsky, stars of Jeanine Meerapfel's *La Amiga* (Photo: Krolow)

Argentine director Alcides Chiesa worked on the final draft of the script, adding to it his experiences of the military dictatorship. He was imprisoned for four years.

The script reflects actual experiences. Meerapfel has listened to the "Mothers of the Plaza Mayor" for hundreds of hours on end. She has talked to them and many of their experiences have been incorporated into her film.

But the film has a lot to do with herself and her previous work.

It deals with coping with the past, as did *Malou*, *Das Land meiner Eltern* and *Die Verliebten*. She said that nothing should be forgotten so that nothing is repeated.

La Amiga has a strong contrapunctual character. Jeanine Meerapfel contrasts hot Argentina with winter-cold Berlin, and the tall, blonde, fair-skinned Liv Ullmann against the small, Mediterranean-type Cipe Linkovsky.

The temperaments of the two actresses collide with one another as well. Liv Ullmann develops her part from a deep, inner conviction. Cipe Linkovsky brings to the role of Raquel a happy-go-lucky, cheerful nature.

Liv Ullmann said that from the beginning the character of Maria had fascinated her. It is a difficult role because she has to demonstrate many character developments.

In Buenos Aires she had many conversations with "The Mothers" and one sentence from one of them remained in her mind and has helped her play the role of Maria.

The mother said: "We were born for the first time through our children."

After *La Amiga* has been completed Liv Ullmann will take a long break. She has had a hectic six months, during which she has worked on four films. She now needs time for her husband and her daughter, who has grown up and is studying. Ullmann wants to be near *her*.

Despite the difficulties of reconciling her various responsibilities with one another she does not speak in negative terms about her profession as actress.

In fact she is a dedicated actress and very much enjoys the variety of her work that always brings her into contract with different people.

Carla Rhode

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 31 January 1988)

Seven noblewomen composedly await war's end in 1945

Peter Schamoni's film *Schloss Königswald*, based on a novella of the same name by Horst Bienek, is not like other films that dealt with the immediate postwar period in Germany.

There are no masses of refugees trying to get away from the Russians, no night-time bombing raids, no soup kitchens and no screaming mothers and children.

The seven noblewomen, who possibly know that they will be inexorably affected by the downfall of their opulent world, recall with astonishing composure that the passengers on the "Titanic" allegedly met their end in evening gowns and dinner jackets with champagne glasses in their hands.

Perhaps, in fact, noblewomen did ring for tea at five to be served on a silver tray by their devoted butler without any consideration of the gunfire that was getting ever closer.

No great problems are dealt with here, but in the small talk we learn quite a lot about the former aristocracy.

For instance, how a star of musicals, played by Marika Rökk, became a baroness. We also learn that by the gramophone there are two records to welcome either the Russians (perish the thought) or the Americans (but where are they?).

Then naturally the Germans have to come into the scene, in a frenzy about victory, in the shape of a captain, hungry for an Iron Cross. He would defend the castle to the last man, indeed to the last noblewoman.





Seven screen stars of the past in Peter Schamoni's *Schloss Königswald* (Photo: Warner Bros)

Then the longed-for Americans appear. They want to occupy the whole castle but this idea flounders when it comes up against the iron dignity of the grandmother princess (played by Camilla Horn) who knows how to make great play not only with her own royal connections but her relationship with the Churchill family.

To the devil with the American order not to fraternise with the Germans in any way! The Negro GI Joe, played by Sherman Steward, sits down to belt it out on a slightly out-of-tune piano.

After Chopin, would you believe, he plays boogie-woogie so that Marika Rökk can dance about showing her famous legs and come out with the line that she was always against racial discrimination.

There is, of course, a romantic interlude between a private (Wolfgang Fierek) and the maid, Milka, (Anja Kruse). But the film is dominated by the noblewomen, the reunion of the legendary stars of the German film past.

It must have been quite a job to get them all together. An original idea has been turned into reality. Marianne Hoppe and Marika Rökk have been cast in a film with the fabulous Camilla Horn, who plays the grandmother princess. She is a star from the great days of

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■ LITERATURE

Düsseldorf University degree course in unsung art of literary translation



Translating is a thankless task and the translator has always stood on the periphery of literature.

The translator is a vital bridgebuilder yet, as one famous critic once asked, who is interested in knowing who built the bridge so long as the bridge is there?

Klaus Birkenhauer, chairman of the Society of German-Language Translators, rhetorically asked of an imaginary person, thinking of becoming a translator: Can you sit still? Are you a quibbler? Do you know your mother tongue well? Do you know a second language well?

He continued: Do you know the country in which this language is spoken? Do you have plenty of imagination to be able to immerse youself in new situations and new characters? Can you keep to deadlines? Can you work in specialist areas new to you? Are you smart in negotiations?

Further: Can you work up to 100 hours per week? Are you prepared to work without a regular pay-packet when you are ill, without holiday pay, without an annual bonus?

If you are, then possibly you are suitable for this profession, Herr Birkenhauer said.

This situation has induced literature translators to do everything imaginable to promote their work. It has led to the establishment over the past few years of two major institutions in North Rhine-Westphalia.

In Straelen there is the European Translators College, opened in April 1985 by North Rhine-Westphalian Education Minister Hans Schwier and writer Heinrich Böll, and the graduate course on literature translating offered by Düsseldorf University, opened last month.

At the opening ceremony the poet Erich Fried read a paper entitled "Translation or a free rendering."

This graduate course is unique in Europe, but very controversial, not least among translators themselves.

Klaus Birkenhauer, who is also a director of the European Translators College, believes that this graduate course will only swell the numbers of unemployed academics.

Paris-based Elmar Tophoven, initiator and president of the European Translators College, supports the Düsseldorf venture however.

Tophoven has himself translated amomg others Samuel Beckett and Claude Simon. Despite opposition in his own organisation he has pleaded for efforts to make translating methods teachable.

He places his hopes on cooperation between Straelen and Düsseldorf. He would like to see translating no longer a leap in the dark and the school for translating, so far a school without instructors, as really an establishment in which students learn from experienced practitioners of the art.

He said that he would like to see students being shown how an expert translator handles a text for translation. "Beginners would then be able to get an insight into an art that is often mysterious and unfathomable."

But is it possible to teach translating as an academic discipline? Are not translators people who have gained their experience outside the academic world, as do writers?

According to Birkenhauer most translators become translators in the same way that writers become writers. He said they do it because they have an insistent urge to write.

No-one takes notice of the warning that there is no money or glory in translating. And critics disregard the translator.

Peter Urban, translator of Chekhov, once complained: "We have no critics who are qualified to assess the translator's work."

He continued: "We have universities that continuously produce specialist academics who can lecture, communicate theories and who can perhaps at least write."

He continued: "We have newspapers and magazines in which translators' names are dealt with like trade marks, in which trends and fashions are created, but there is no criticism, at least none from which translators can glean much."

Traugott König, Sartre's translator, said that translating was an activity in total intellectual isolation because the talents that had to be brought to the work were so special that it would be impossible to discuss them with anyone else.

According to Joseph Breitbach the translator "deliberately and continuously sacrifices his peace of mind" to his work.

He went along with König who said that on the quiet of his study the translator is persecuted by scruples and doubts in his search for solutions to his problems.

Walter Benjamin said that the translator's task was "to find meanings in the language into which a text was being translated that awoke echoes of the original."

Is it possible to teach this then? Burkhard Kroeber, translator of Umberto Eco and Italo Calvino, said that attempts had been made for centuries to teach translating, "and that is valid enough, for the final product is a translation, a finished product that is a piece of craftsmanship, like so many other works of art, and that can be taught."

But are translation courses at university, or translation theories written up in textbooks, meaningful if it is assumed that they should not and could not set any norms?

Kroeber said that it was primarily a matter of personal talent whether a person who translated was "in a position to reproduce a writer in another language adequately with due attention to the writer's literary qualities."

Teaching staff in Düsseldorf University are well aware of this, naturally. Note of these points and their consequences has been taken in drawing up the four-year course.

At the end of the course students will be offered a degree as a translator with the additional notation "translator of literature."

Professor Fritz Nies, in charge of the Düsseldorf project, said that the course was aimed at translating into German. Translation from English, French, Italian or Spanish would be the main languages for attention. Eventually Russian and Japanese might be added.

There would be no be forgetting, in the course, that not all experience can be taught. The translator must take note of his own, individual experiences when working.

Michael Walter, who recently translated Laurence Sterne's *Tristram Shandy*, (published by Haffmanns-Verlag), said that one of the qualities a translator had to bring to his work was the talents of a research worker.

How could a translator capture the quality of the 18th century English used in the original, and the patina that had collected on the text, so that this quality was retained but the book sounded modern to a German reader today, who would not stumble over the old sentence constructions?

Walter, using a musical metaphor, said that the score was there, the question was how to orchestrate it.

"How many saxophones could I include in a Baroque string orchestra? Or the other way round, how many violas do I want to hear next to the synthesizer?"

He said that by tinkering about in this way he got the tone of the 18th century English and its patina.

Before he began translating Sterne's book, to get a feel of this patina, he looked at old books of costumes of the period so as to get "the colours in my ear."

He said that he did not believe that there was nor could there be "a concrete theory for translating. Everyone has his or her own approach and way of coming to terms with the author."

Considerable demands are made of a translator and students in the Düsseldorf University course will be given an insight into what these demands are.

Translator Elmar Tophoven believes they are a matter of interaction, and not only so that the translation, apparently mysterious and unfathomable, can be made clear.

Cooperation between Straelen and Düsseldorf, between experienced translators and learners, can be an advantage to the experienced translator as well.

Tophoven said: "Old-hand translators will get a sense of regeneration coming into contact with young, talented people, because on the one hand they will have to reexamine their automatic reactions, and on the other they will recognise the exemplary nature of their individual solutions to problems and value them for their own qualities the more."

Christian Linder

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 22 January 1988)

'Under fire'

Continued from page 4

Environment Minister had not seen fit to notify him immediately of suspicions that uranium had been supplied to Pakistan and Libya.

He must surely be the Bonn Cabinet Minister on the closest and most relaxed — but not too hail fellow, well met — terms with the Press.

After a tough day of talks, as at the North Sea conference in London at the end of last year, he virtually insists on his party joining him for a drink.

He will end the day with a game of cards, then sleep for what is usually four hours at most, having agreed to be up early for an interview the next morning.

So it is hardly surprising that he has quickly made a name for himself both in Bonn and further afield. His approach to work is uncomplicated, aimed solely at being effective. Teamwork is his motto; he takes a dim view of going it alone internationally.

He sets the greatest store by consensus but can be a tough customer when his confidence is abused, as he feels it was in connection with Nukem in Hanau.

Married, with three children, he drives home from Bonn to Mainz every evening.

Like everyone else, he has his shortcomings, one being that he runs the risk of overtaxing himself, rushing from one appointment to the next.

This accounts for a further shortcoming. Punctuality is not his strong point. Asked what he considers to be his most serious weakness, he says it is his inability to say no.

Jochim Stoltenberg

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 16 January 1988)

Continued from page 10

silent movies, who was also a sensation in Hollywood. She starred as Gretchen in Murnau's *Faust*.

She later became a world star in Lubitsch's *Eternal Love*, playing opposite John Barrymore.

Camilla Horn is so old that she can speak with delight of being present in Hollywood at the first sound film, *Singing Fool*, with Al Jolson.

She then returned to Germany, but despite great success with her films, she was quickly forgotten.

Unlike in America where stars such as *Bette Davis* or *Katherine Hepburn* are offered roles in line with their age, we have made heavy weather with our great names of the past.

Peter Schamoni has attracted attention principally for his portraits of artists such as Max Ernst, Nikki de Saint Phalle and Austrian painter Friedensreich Hundertwasser in *Regentag*, which was nominated for an Oscar.

In his latest film he pays homage to the glittering names of the German film. Suddenly in *Schloß Königswald* a few of the actresses are brought back who, in the minds of their fans, were never really forgotten.

There is also Carola Höhn, who many years ago starred alongside Marika Rökk in a film version of Karl Millöcker's *Der Bettelstudent*.

Schamoni has gone to great pains to ensure that the great names of the past did not have any unfair competition. There were no secret struggles for power in this film.

A disciplined Marianne Hoppe is a model in her performance in a relatively minor role. She is fortunately not one of those who have been forgotten.

The other noble dames are also astonishingly good, Rose Renée Roth, Fee von Reichlin and Ortrud von der Recke.

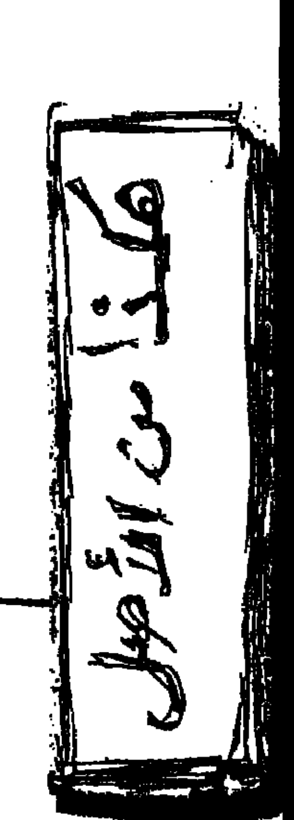
In the face of so much fame from the past Dietlinde Turban had her work cut out making something of her role as the young princess.

East Berlin actor Wolfgang Greese deserves particular praise in the role of the butler, Karl, who later proves not to be so devoted. He believes that his day has come with the downfall of the aristocratic world.

The answer to the question: is it possible to make a comedy about Germany in 1945, is decidedly yes. Schamoni and Horst Bienek have done it.

Werner Baecker

(Die Welt, Bonn, 14 January 1988)



■ ENVIRONMENT

Experts warn Bonn that Nature hangs in the balance

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Seven German scientists met Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl to discuss the perilous state of Germany's environment.

The Chancellor heard that the environment was at an advanced stage of decay. The experts urged him to take preventive action.

The latest findings show that nature is deteriorating faster in Germany than in virtually any other country. The process of natural regeneration is being extensively disrupted by the encroachment of technology and urbanisation.

This will no doubt surprise many people. Only 10 years ago the government was assuring its citizens that only one tenth of its 248,000 square kilometres was built-up or cultivated. But this claim was a misleading fairy tale.

The reality is far different from the reams of tourist brochures and films of beautiful lakes and meadows. What the city dweller does not see is the extent of the exodus of animals and the withering of plants which is taking place.

While the most robust plants and trees seem as healthy as ever and seagulls, starlings and pigeons populate the skies, an agricultural and industrial campaign costing billions of marks is sapping the vitality of nature.

The seven environmentalists were Professor Peter Berthold of the Max Planck Ethology Institute, Radolfzell, Professor Erz of the Federal Nature Conservation and Regional Ecology Establishment, Bonn, Freising ecologist Professor Haber, Professor Heydemann of Kiel University, Professor Sukopp of Berlin, Dr Fresenius of the WWF World Fund for Nature's German Environmental Foundation and Dr Eugeniusz Nowak of the Federal Research Establishment.

They told the Chancellor it was as much in mankind's interest as in nature's to see a stop to the abuse of woodlands and particularly the countryside. According to their evidence, a third of all higher plants and a half of all vertebrates are in danger of extinction.

Up to ten per cent of species of different groups of animals have been wiped out. The scientists said: "If the basic set-up does not change, only every third or tenth wild plant or species of animal will be left by the year 2040."

Professor Berthold said: "We told the Chancellor that our generation, and not that of our children, would be the first to witness the collapse of entire ecological systems." Scientists, he added, reckoned they would soon see the failure of specific food cycles.

The main cause of the destruction of nature is the government's agricultural policy. Farmers are encouraged by the European Community's intervention system to till every square centimetre of land. To maximise crop yields, they dose the land with fertilisers and insecticides which destroy nature's defences against diseases, pests and parasites.

For this reason scientists think we will quite possibly see in 10 to 15 years the appearance of Aids-like plant diseases. The consequences would be catastrophic because specially bred plant cultures would be the norm, and they usually have weak defence systems.

In no other land on earth is the situation so alarming as in industrialised Germany. The only other countries which come close are Holland and Belgium.

The amount of uncultivated land where plants can actually regenerate is practically zero in comparison with France.

The British were long able to rely on food imported from their former colonies. And today they can boast of many natural paradises of woodland and countryside.

Even developing countries which have uncontrolled cutting and despoiling of terrain still have regions with intact environments.

Despite a falling population and vanishing countryside the amount of land built on increases relentlessly. Every day 167 hectares of land are lost. The German Environmental Protection Association says this corresponds to an area the size of Lake Constance every year.

Germany has about 14 million hectares of agricultural land. About 30 million kilos of chemical poisons have been used to increase yields on the land — that's about 500 grams per head of the population.

The European Community's agricultural policy is too successful. The market cannot take the mountains of meat and butter. The Community has to spend billions of marks storing the produce to stop farm prices hitting rock bottom. So the story is that nature is being poisoned to yield food which Europeans cannot use. This vicious circle will have to be broken somehow.

Will we have soon harvested ourselves to death? The seven experts certainly think the situation is serious. They urged the Chancellor to use his presidency of the European Community to stop the rot before it was too late. They warned of powerful forces trying to stop the Community's proposed plans to keep 15 per cent of European farmland uncultivated. Energy suppliers were planning agricultural factories to turn yields from uncultivated arable land into energy. If this happened it would be a death blow to the first attempt to give nature a chance to recuperate. The environmental experts are calling for the immediate introduction of protection orders for woodland and countryside areas which up to now have not had concrete laws to stave off encroachment.

The experts admit that an undertaking like this will present the government with many *difficult legal* problems. It will not be easy to railroad the objections of opposition groups.

Professor Berthold also sees the problem from the party-political perspective. Everything is dependent on paying farmers to forgo using land or paying them for being more careful in cultivating it.

The CDU will evaluate any solution on the basis of whether it will alienate its traditional rural supporters. Chancellor Kohl told the scientists he was taking seriously "the significance of the facts and findings which they discussed."

He asked them to draw up within four weeks a catalogue of *attainable remedial* measures. The Chancellor and experts then agreed to meet again in the autumn.

It remains to be seen whether the measures they come up with will be just a dream or an actual ray of hope for nature. Otherwise one swallow may make a summer.

Bernd Fuhs

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 18 January 1988)



Rhine-Main-Danube Canal: ecological blackspot?
(Photo: Krug, Luftbild freig. vom Reg.-Präsidium Karlsruhe, Nr. 216/550)

German homes said to be a health hazard

German health authorities say the country's homes are unhealthy to live in. The air indoors is full of toxins.

Three thousand apartments were probed to find an explanation for the headaches, fatigue, sore eyes and respiratory complaints from which millions of Germans suffer.

Professor Bernd Seifert, 46, head of the Institute of Water, Air and Soil Hygiene in Berlin, is carrying out the largest-ever investigation of air in private homes. "The air in most apartments," he says, "is 50 times more toxic than at some crossroads or traffic junctions in big cities."

Professor Seifert has collected 20,000 ecological data from homes between Hamburg and Munich. In the laboratories of the Federal Health Authority 4,000 water samples, 240 litres of urine, 24 cubic metres of dust, 15 litres of blood and 270,000 milligrams of hair are being analysed.

The results of the study will be released at the end of the year. But already the first results reveal an alarming trend. All our rooms are full of harmful substances. The list includes dust, varnish, wallpaper, heaters, cosmetics and dangerous formaldehyde in certain kinds of furniture.

To make matters worse, most people use air sprays to freshen up the air. Unfortunately they contain fluorochlorohydrocarbons which break down the earth's ozone layer.

"The public are using more chemicals at home now than ever before. These days people are more involved in hobbies which require the use of chemicals such as glue. The end result is a vicious circle which is going to be difficult to stop," said Professor Seifert.

The worst feature of this trend, he added, was that most complaints such as fatigue, allergies and breathing complaints were not caused by a single chemical.

The vacuum cleaner is the worst culprit. It does not retain all the dirt it sucks up. Minute particles of dust are blown out the back. They hover in the air and are inhaled.

Second on the list are unnoticed poisonous vapours from furniture and odours from carpets.

The study's most surprising result is that only four per cent of Germans believe that the quality of air in their homes is bad. In winter this figure increases to 10 per cent.

Professor Seifert said: "It's *basically* domestic cleaners which make the air *in* private homes 50 times worse than it is outside on the street."

Many housewives use disinfectants when soap and water would be enough.

Disinfectants are not the only culprits. Who would have thought that wooden walls could be dangerous? Well they are. Composition board often contains poisonous formaldehyde, which can affect food.

Professor Seifert said that we do not air our rooms enough. We are so obsessed with saving energy that we hardly tolerate circulation of air any more.

The study also points a finger at dry cleaning. The chemicals used are poisonous. One should always air clothes which have been cleaned in this way before wearing them.

The report said that one German in three uses perfume sprays, toilet crystals and sanitary cleaners, which all pollute the air.

How can we protect ourselves? Our only chance is to use environmentally beneficial products. And also to rely on our instincts. If your nose is itchy then something is more than likely up.

Günter Werz

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 21 January 1988)

■ OUR WORLD

82-year-old Düsseldorf banker endows Aids research foundation

Banker Heinz Ansmann could never forget the 50-year-old mother of two children who contracted Aids from a blood transfusion in a routine operation and who has since suffered severe brain damage.

His conversation returned to this patient time and time again when he talked about a visit he made to the Aids ward at Düsseldorf University Hospital.

The only contact merchant banker Ansmann, 82, had previously had with Aids was what he had read in the newspapers.

He had clipped reports about Aids in the *Wall Street Journal*, obligatory reading for a banker, for a number of years, particularly its lethal advance in California.

He said: "It was obvious to me that the epidemic would shortly reach Europe."

With the greatest discretion he decided to give what assistance he could. In his whole life he had never held a press conference, but to mark his 80th birthday he called newspapermen together and announced that he had set up the Heinz Ansmann Aids Foundation.

He first planned to fund it with DM500,000, then doubled his endowment in mid-November.

The foundation was the first of its kind in the Federal Republic. Its funds will be used for research and equipment for early diagnosis of HIV infection.

Düsseldorf University Hospital is currently looking after 400 Aids patients from the North Rhine-Westphalia area.

Using the American drug Retrovir, which is not a cure but slows up the spread of the HIV virus, some of these patients will be discharged from hospital.

The 12 beds in the infectious diseases ward have so far been adequate, but Professor Georg Stromeyer, a director of the Düsseldorf hospital, believes that eventually these beds will not be sufficient.

The medical care that Professor Stromeyer's infectious diseases ward offers is of the very best. There is one nurse for every patient.

But finances to do more to combat Aids are limited. Last year, however, with funds provided by the Ansmann Foundation, more incubators were ordered to be able to conduct more experiments on ways of isolating the lethal virus.

Just before Christmas the foundation trustees approved an additional DM100,000 to purchase a high-performance camera, developed in Japan, to diagnose suspicious changes at the back of the eye, and two endoscopes capable of revealing small ulcers in the gastric tract.

These factors are possible evidence of an Aids infection.

The rest of the funds will go into research projects for early diagnosis of changes of the central and surface nervous systems, which have been observed in many Aids patients.

Should the foundation's investment income be inadequate Herr Ansmann will have to dig deeper into his pocket. He has opened an account with the Deutsche Bank for donations, himself contributing an initial DM200,000.

He has placed advertisements in newspapers inviting people to help in the fight against Aids "at their own discretion."

His appeal struck a chord in the public conscience for within a few days of the account being opened DM50,000 had been contributed.

Heinz Ansmann is now able to give more of his time to helping people stricken with Aids. Because of his age he has cut back considerably on his involvement in banking.

He has two secretaries and a chauffeur. He also has available a private dining room, with cook, above the offices in Düsseldorf. Even at the pinnacle of his career in banking he did not have more.

In the post-war reconstruction period he was the man behind many spectacular amalgamations and mergers.

In his office there is the rattle of a telex still giving the closing quotes on the Düsseldorf stock exchange at midday. Here, captains of industry, needing considerable discretion, have always known they were putting themselves in good hands.

Ansmann was born in a small village near Oldenburg. His father was a farmer.

Rather than playing on a solo instrument in the world of finance he initially preferred to be involved in a great orchestra.

After having taken his law examinations he was hired by the Berlin office of the Dresdner Bank in the middle of the economic crisis at the beginning of the 1930s.

He recalled: "I was told that I could begin if I could find an empty desk anywhere, but the bank couldn't pay me."

He was a young man from the provinces but he was not discouraged by the situation. He worked hard and as time went by he got ahead.

In 1953 he established his own bank, at about the same time as former Reichsbank president Hjalmar Schacht set up his bank.

This was four years before the major banks had returned to their previous glory after having been compulsorily decentralised after the war.

His bank was, in fact, the smallest merchant bank in Germany but, supported by his wide-ranging pre-war experience Heinz Ansmann raised capital for major companies, with their promissory notes, and for public borrowing, principally from insurance companies.

He is very proud of a deal he made from a Belgrade hotel at the end of the 1970s. He was in the Yugoslav capital as an observer for the annual International Monetary Fund conference. During the conference he was able to place IMF bonds valued at more than DM100m with his clients.

His second interest was placing equity. He gave considerable assistance to Helmut Horten when he was building up his department stores chain and to Hans-Günter Sohl, the Thyssen boss, in establishing his steel empire in a leading position in German industry.

Hermann Josef Abs, one-time chairman of the Deutsche Bank, also made use of Ansmann's detailed knowledge of share ownership.

Ansmann was little known outside the banking world until he started his campaign for Aids sufferers, that is. He said of himself that he was "a merchant banker in the old style."

He is very uneasy about the publicity he has attracted to himself. He was recently guest of honour at an international conference in Düsseldorf University's Audimax where experts reported on their work against the Aids epidemic. He quietly slipped out just before the end, "so as not to be applauded by the students."

Despite repeated requests he would not change his decision not to be photographed by an experienced press photographer.

A friend of the family revealed that his wife was "just a little upset" by her husband's Aids campaign. After the first press reports she nervously asked: "Whatever is my husband doing? Everywhere I go I'm being asked about it."

Ansmann hopes that others will follow his example. When he doubled the capital of his foundation he also opened it up to co-founders willing to contribute DM100,000 or more.

Heinz Ansmann's private initiative is way outside any political considerations.

Family Affairs Minister Rita Süssmuth, for instance, asked for a copy of the statutes of his foundation as a model for her national Aids Foundation.

Hans Otto Eglau

(Die Zeit, Bonn, 15 January 1988)

Foster-mother for Aids girl Anna, aged 4

Anna was born in 1983. She is as big as a four-year-old should be but she behaves like a one-year-old and shows all the signs of brain damage.

She can't walk or speak properly. She wears pink rompers. Her extremely thin arms and legs are obviously lame.

The child is growing but she isn't healthy. Doctors do not believe she will reach adulthood. Anna has Aids.

"I love her. I want to have her as long as I can," said Lis Spans, her foster-mother.

Lis Spans, 46, an antique dealer in Düsseldorf, held the child close to her breast. Anna's head flopped weakly on her foster-mother's shoulder.

Anna has large, dark eyes. She laughs at her foster-mother and makes guttural sounds to show that she felt well.

Anna contracted Aids from her mother who was a drug addict and caught the disease from sharing a hypodermic syringe.

Frau Spans said: "Her mother was a victim of the times and became drug-dependent when scientists and prominent journalists trivialised the dangers of drug-taking."

Anna has had to be treated at the Düsseldorf University Hospital several times for inflammation of the lung and sudden bouts of fever.

She is one among 46 children who have had tests that were Aids-positive.

Eight of them have, like Anna, the fully-fledged disease. They have either been infected by blood transfusions or they have been infected by their mothers, members of high risk groups, either prostitutes or drug addicts.

Many of the mothers have since died. No-one knows where Anna's father is. She became an orphan in 1986 when her mother died.



Düsseldorf antique dealer Lis Spans and Anna (Photo: Kinder-Aids-Hilfe)

As a baby Anna developed normally. She learned to speak and to walk. At 18 months she was given a routine inoculation against polio and was immediately taken ill with a severe inflammation of the lungs.

Doctors made any number of wrong diagnoses. Then her mother was advised by a friend to have Anna tested for Aids. The test results were a double shock to the mother. She discovered that she and her daughter were HIV positive.

Shortly afterwards the mother developed all the full symptoms of Aids, dying in 1986.

"She cared for the poor darling right up to the end, so long as her strength held out," Lis Spans said.

After a little reflection she took in her neighbour's little daughter because "she needed a mother's love and care."

But not every child infected with Aids is lucky enough to find a plucky foster-mother. So Lis Spans has set up an organisation named "Assistance for Children with Aids."

Together with Gabriele Henkel, wife of the industrialist, and the wives of other prominent industrialists, she is collecting funds via her organisation for a separate ward for children with Aids to be built in the grounds of Düsseldorf University Hospital.

The present ward is already crowded and a special hazard for children infected with the Aids virus.

It caters for infectious diseases of all kinds — an additional danger to immune deficiency patients. If enough funds are collected then a separate building will be put up for Aids sufferers.

But many prejudices have to be overcome along the way. Lis Spans has not yet been able to find office accommodation for her "Assistance for Children with Aids" organisation.

Two landlords refused her office space point-blank when they heard the name of the organisation applying to rent their property.

"I don't want people with Aids ringing my doorbell," said one Düsseldorf property owner to Lis Spans.

Little Anna was listening attentively and at this point she gave a radiant smile.

Helmut Breuer

(Die Welt, Bonn, 25 January 1988)

■ MODERN LIVING

Data ombudsman's 100-page saga of irregularities

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Reinhold Baumann, commissioner for data protection, has submitted his last report to the Bonn government. After 10 years in the job he is retiring in May.

It is not the most radical of the reports he has submitted, but it does finger some unbelievable errors of commission and omission in government behaviour.

On every page of the 100-page report there are criticisms, complaints and recommendations.

Government departments, particularly security, the postal service and transport, have not kept to data protection requirements, which are continuously being outdated by revolutionary technology.

In some instances there were infringements of law and in some instances in that field that has not yet been regulated by law and regulations and that seems limitless for the application of data information.

The Constitutional Court's ruling in favour of the citizen's right to "control over the use of personal data" is perhaps (still) pure theory.

The most important thoughts that Baumann had to contribute concerned the exchange of information between the police and the security forces.

This is a complex matter and has triggered considerable discussion, as have proposals currently in the legislative pipeline.

Reinhold Baumann regards it as illegal for the *Bundeskriminalamt*, Germany's Wiesbaden-based Federal CID, constantly to feed into the NADIS intelligence computer system data about suspects and guilty persons under state security surveillance.

This data can be retrieved directly by counter-espionage and indirectly by the secret services, MAD and BND, by comparing their records with the NADIS computer.

According to Baumann it seems questionable whether the Bundestag would ever approve such a wide-ranging data link-up.

He reported that one of the complaints made by his staff, that data link-ups were carried on, was rejected by the Interior Ministry.

As regards last year's census, controversial as regards data protection, he said that the state had broken the rules but these misdemeanours were within tolerable limits.

He sharply criticised cases where data concerning opponents of the census were fed into the police computer system APIS.

He regarded it as unnecessary to classify the removal of numbers from census forms as criminal. He also said that it was going too far to treat people who were anti-census as being guilty of unconstitutional activities.

This underlined his previous criticisms of the police computer APIS. The guidelines for the use of this computer make it possible to include minor criminal acts as well as illegal billsticking as an infringement of democratic principles should there be just a suspicion of what the motives were.

Baumann wrote: "Classification of this sort can pigeonhole young people in terrorist categories where they do not rightly belong."

Baumann drew attention to the problems data protection presented with the increase in digital communications technology for telephone conversations.

Previously protection of telephone calls was provided to some degree by the state of development of technology. New technology, however, has opened up possibilities for hackers.

The data protection authorities call for additional protection measures in this area.

The registration of telephone conversations made from a car, as brought to light in the Uwe Barschel case in Kiel, gave Baumann the opportunity to warn the postal services that they should provide clearer explanations about their technical equipment.

He felt the Bundespost was tending to forget that citizens were customers of the service and not its subjects.

Despite his criticisms he came to the conclusion that better data protection was provided in the public domain than in private industry.

He said that in industry the individual's right to the control of information about himself was "not guaranteed in any number of areas."

As an example Baumann pointed to mail-order businesses that annotated streets in their address lists as "antisocial" or with the note "caution." Orders placed by people who came from certain addresses were disregarded.

Baumann said that a similar situation in the public sector "would be unthinkable today."

Martin E. Süskind

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 29 January 1988)

Computers that 'never forget' irrelevant facts

A young woman from an East Bloc country had frequently visited her boyfriend in the Federal Republic. When she applied to the German embassy for a visa for a Christmas visit her application was turned down.

The reason given was that "there is negative information to hand." Officialdom would go no further.

When her boyfriend made enquiries at government offices in the Federal Republic he came up against a wall of silence. He turned to the data protection authority.

Because his girlfriend had overstayed a few days on her last visit she had been entered in the aliens register as "unwelcome to visit the Federal Republic," although the public prosecutor had cancelled proceedings against her because of the insignificance of her offence.

Reinhold Baumann, the commissioner for data protection, took up the case and his efforts met with success.

A telegram, fired off to the ambassador, ensured that the girl was given a visa to visit the Federal Republic over Christmas.

This is just one example of a misuse of data information that Baumann and his staff have to deal with daily.

There was then the case of the 17-year-old whose dearest wish was to join the Federal Border Police and wear their green uniform.

His application was rejected because of police information that, when he was 14, he had stolen a toy from a department store.

The juvenile court dismissed the case after giving him a verbal warning. Nevertheless his name was entered in local police records and had remained there.

Baumann said of this case: "It is not the duty of local police to give their opinions on people in their district when they apply for positions in the public service."

The Interior Ministry has shown understanding and has allowed the young man to re-apply.

The postal service, on the other hand, has not shown much common sense about complaints.

A young woman had been receiving irritating telephone calls for weeks on end. Her telephone number had been included in a sex contacts advertisement in the post office's visual display information service (Btx).

The woman went to the police. They referred her to the postal service. They in turn referred her to Btx headquarters and there she was told that the people offering this Btx service were responsible.

Baumann was unable to help here. Due to the technical and legal make-up of the Btx system it was impossible to confirm who was the anonymous person responsible for the advertisement. His complaints to the postal service also achieved nothing.

The posts refused to take precautions in the Btx system although this was not the first case of irritation of this kind.

Baumann does not intend to leave matters there. He said that this could not be accepted because it infringed data protection.

Heinz-Peter Finke

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 29 January 1988)

Police records' insatiable data appetite

Police forces in many *Länder* have been feeding information on anti-census campaigners into the *Bundeskriminalamt* (BKA) computer or their own computer facilities, and this has unleashed considerable debate in the Federal Republic about computer data files kept by the security services.

Even the experts are unsure about the nature of these entries and how extensive the practice has been. The specialist magazine *Kriminalstatistik* speaks of a "labyrinth of electronic data."

For more than a hundred years the police have kept files on crimes, wrongdoers and suspects. But only over the past 20 years or so have the security services made use of electronic data processing.

The computer era began on 13 November 1972 when the Wiesbaden-based Federal CID put into operation its information system known as "Inpol."

The notation "Inpol" stands for a number of collections of data at BKA headquarters and at offices in the *Länder*.

In the main, the information is divided into "Inpol-Bund" (central government) and "Inpol-Land" (Federal states).

Inpol central government information consists of individual items of information. The oldest and best-known are the wanted persons lists.

With this information police, when stopping and questioning members of the public, can ascertain in seconds if a person is on the wanted list or whether an item, a car for instance, has been stolen.

The BKA's collection of fingerprints is also well-known. Following a special system the fingerprints of more than 985,000 people have been stored away. This information is part of the police records department and includes people who have been fingerprinted since 1986.

Less well-known is "Kan," giving information on a person's criminal record. This system also indicates at which police station the file on a person for a particular crime has been recorded.

This includes people who are accused of a crime, or who have been proven to have committed a crime, "supra-regional" by nature.

"Kan" gives data on persons, "Spu-Dok" provides data on cases. According to the significance of a crime, kidnapping for instance, clues and findings are not only entered in case files but also in the "Spu-Dok" EDP system.

"Spu-Dok" data files of this kind are also opened, case by case, in state crime offices.

The data file "Pios" was opened in the middle of the 1970s with the aim of effectively combating terrorism. This includes all the information on people and matters relating to the terrorist scene.

The old "Pios" system has been replaced with a new one and the abbreviation "Pios" is now only a component of the new abbreviation "Apis," which in German stands for "Working Data Pios for Internal Security."

This working data is held by the BKA as a post box, as it were, for the police in the individual *Länder*. The states feed in data to this system.

The state security services store data on right-wing and left-wing terrorists, extremists and politically-motivated crimes committed by foreigners.

This is the data about which there is currently so much discussion. Individual states have stored data on people who boycotted the census.

Apart from Apis, that is the Pios system for internal security, there is working data collected by the BKA, code-named "Pios Drugs" and "Pios organised crime."

The various states operate their own systems in this sector. North Rhine-Westphalia, for example, operates "Pikas," the police information, communications and enquiry system.

Bavaria operates the Information of the Bavarian Police system (IBP), Rhineland-Palatinate "Polis," Bremen the police report system (Isa), Baden-Württemberg the information on persons system (Pad) and Berlin the information system for the fight against crime (ISVB).

Günther Braun

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 14 January 1988)

■ VARIETY

It's all psychology, says lion-tamer Siemoneit

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

René Strickler found taming tigers much more exciting than handling stock market bulls or bears, so he gave up a well-paid job in banking.

Eva Althoff, a Vienna secretary, had no hesitation in waving goodbye to dictation. She closed her shorthand notebook once and for all.

Dieter Farell from Lübeck and East Prussian-born Gerd Siemoneit disliked the civil service atmosphere in which they grew up. They too decided to quit the rat race and go in for something bigger: lion-taming.

Siemoneit and Farell are steps ahead of tamers from a circus background, many of whom treat their animals quite roughly.

They are acquainted with the latest findings of ethology, or animal behaviour research, and can put them to good use in the Big Top.

The shows they perform night after night are textbook examples of applied psychology.

The most important point is that prides of lions or tigers are not a classless society. Like humans at work, each animal has an acknowledged social status in relation to the others, with the tamer as 'top cat'.

When Farell was working with a group of 13 tigers, lions, leopards and pumas at Sarrasani's Circus he had a particularly obstreperous Sumatran tiger, Bengal.

He punished him by leaving him till last in the centre cage, which completely broke his spirit. When he finally entered the ring not only the boss, Farell, but also all his "workmates" were already there.

It was the same situation as can floor a white-collar worker who turns up last or, worse still, late for a conference.

He is not going to say boo to a goose or, to quote another proverb, the Devil will take the hindmost.

In the pyramid of pedestals on which the animals were required to sit, Farell left the troublemaker Bengal with no choice but to take the last and lowliest place. He was humiliated and made to look up at his tamer.

For the same reason judges still sit on a bench higher than the dock in which the accused is made to stand.

In many managing directors' offices the chairs arranged in front of the boss's desk are comfortable armchairs — but not for comfort's sake.

Visitors sink into the easy chairs only to find themselves sitting almost on the ground and looking up at the man behind the desk.

It's all psychology. The employee who asks for a rise is in much the same position as Bengal, the tiger who was put in his place.

Siemoneit says that in handling big cats the tamer benefits from the fact that the animals make no distinction between him and his whip or stick (Siemoneit uses a broomstick painted white).

The whip in the tamer's one hand and the stick in his other are, as the lion or tiger sees them, both human paws longer than their own.

A dog when attacked would leap at the attacker's throat or try to sink his teeth into his legs. Lions, tigers and leopards try to hit the end of the whip or stick with their paws.

So the tamer can successfully use both to keep the dangerous animals — in his case a round dozen large cats — at bay, and that means keeping an eye on a dozen different characters, temperaments and moods (of which the latter can change daily).

He says he can tell by the way they run into the ring which animals are going to be on their best behaviour and which are going to be potential troublemakers. The tiger's tail is another sure guide to its mood.

If its tail dangles slackly like a piece of rope, the tiger is feeling relaxed and at peace with the world. If the tip of its tail flicks to and fro, it is excited or upset.

If its tail looks as though it is fractured at several points, that is a very real danger signal. The tiger is tense and nervous.

When a tiger's ears are flattened and drawn back (you can then always see the white dots on the back of its ears), that invariably means it is in a bad mood.

Lions and tigers are taught their tricks from the tender age of 8-12 months. Leopards start even earlier, being more impulsive than other felines.

Lions learn faster. They are more intelligent, Siemoneit says. Tigers are a little wilier, but otherwise totally chaotic.



Lion-tamer Dieter Farell and pupil in the Big Top

(Photo: Mrotzkowski)

What makes him say tigers are less bright than lions? Lions, he says, can be led from a single position in the ring; he doesn't have to move from the spot. They remember the exact routine. Tigers have to be shown the way daily, otherwise they create confusion.

The first things the animals have to learn is to pay attention when their names are called and to sit steady on their pedestals.

Trying to teach 12 or 20 tigers to sit still can only be compared with trying to press toothpaste back into the tube, he says. Hardly have some been persuaded to sit still but the next ones decide to go for a walk. Constant instructions, given in a quiet voice, are the only way to make headway.

For hours on end the tamer may have to say: "That's right, Larissa, stay just where you are." So he must have nerves of steel to avoid ending up in an asylum.

He must also have his fair share of courage, even in dealings with the taxman. Allowances for lion-tamers have been drastically reduced for years even though a tiger eats 15 lb of meat a day.

That is a heavy expense, and an opportunity to dispel an old and widespread belief that animals are fed just before the show "so they don't eat their tamer."

In reality they are fed first thing in the morning, otherwise they would be sluggish during the show and sit there looking like Garfield the cartoon cat after a heavy dinner.

Werner Philipp

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 24 January 1988)

Car designer: just the job for the fair sex

Antje Schulze looks at an assortment of car seats arranged like a row of seats in a cinema. She has had one of them upholstered in glencheck, with a red pinstripe running through a discreet grey pattern.

It looks gentlemanlike. Is it, the 30-year-old designer wonders, suitable for the Opel Omega? The idea will be tested and thought over at length before a final decision is reached.

The motor industry is very much an all-male preserve. Is Frau Schulze's role that of the statutory woman? Anything but; women are agreed to have a better feeling for colour and design.

The interior decoration of a car plays a crucial part in deciding whether or not a model will sell well. Good looks sell, bad looks don't.

The team of designers she belongs to at Opel must not only identify car-buyers' preferences in this respect; they must visualise them in advance.

"We are working on the 1991 and 1992 models at present," Frau Schulze says.

Successful makes and models of car have always succeeded in reflecting the *Zeitgeist*, or spirit of the age. At Opel in Rüsselsheim, near Frankfurt, marketing surveys are carried out well ahead of product development.

The design team's job is to decide which model is to comply with which potential car-buyers' wishes. Frau Schulze begins by sketching out ideas for the interior design.

One aspect she invariably bears in mind is whether the model is envisaged as a first car to be bought by people who have just passed their driving test (and will presumably not be able to afford luxury) or as an up-market saloon that has to reflect the owner's prestige.

That naturally predetermines the budget and the cost framework within which she must operate. Yet car seat materials must all be virtually indestructible since they all have to withstand the same treatment.



An eye for good looks: Antje Schulze

(Photo: Opel)

"Ten-year-old cars today can be red with rust," she says, "but today's cars will look entirely different in 10 years' time. In keeping with car seat materials today, car bodies and paintwork are growing much harder-wearing."

Once full-sized models are made, the new seat designs are upholstered. "The advantage is," Frau Schulze says, "that we have our workshops right here at Opel. You can talk to the people and tell them to run a seam at another angle or use another shade of grey for the canopy." Trends are in the air, simply waiting to be identified. "We came something of a cropper with a material we chose for the 1987 Omega model marketed from the autumn of 1986," she recalls.

"It was a fine material but more colourful, a little more adventurous, than was usual at the time. People felt it was too garish, especially in Britain. We marketed it too soon. I am sure it will be all the rage in a year or two."

Interior and exterior colour schemes must match. There are only three or four basic colours but a couple of dozen shades from which to choose for the exterior.

Designers make recommendations on which shades, in their view, best suit each other. "But customers are naturally free to make their own choice."

Frau Schulze, who drives to Rüsselsheim from Mainz every morning, has a white car with a grey interior. "Not very colourful really," she says, "but that's how it suits me."

Women like her often decide on a car by themselves, not bothering to consult their menfolk. Husbands in contrast consult their wives before buying the family car. Recent market research has revealed that women's influence on the choice of car is even greater than has been imagined. They arrive at the decision, leaving the men to sign the contract and pay the bill.

What interior designs do women prefer? The trend is toward cosier interiors, with artificial leather and plastic on their way out. That doesn't necessarily mean plusher, but it certainly means snugger.

"I am convinced tomorrow's car-buyers of both sexes will be even more demanding," she says. "They will insist on more comfort, better looks and colours that are easier on the eye, making cars literally better-looking."

Ingeborg Toth

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 23 January 1988)